



Full Israel-Soviet ties likely by September

MSKOW (AP) — Israel and the Soviet Union will likely restore full diplomatic relations in September when Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh visits the Middle East, an independent news agency reported Wednesday. Interfax was quoting Anatoly Filev, deputy chief of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East and North Africa Department. A spokesman for Bessmertnykh said Wednesday he could not comment on the timing. Interfax said Mr. Bessmertnykh was tentatively scheduled to visit the Middle East sometime between Sept. 5, when he returns from the opening of the World Bank assembly, and Sept. 17, when he will be at the United Nations for the opening of the General Assembly. "Diplomatic ties are likely to be restored early in September," Interfax report said. "The restoration of diplomatic ties is expected to coincide with a trip by Alexander Bessmertnykh." Interfax noted that Mr. Bessmertnykh is expected to be in Moscow on Sept. 10 for the opening of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe's meeting on human rights.

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Doubt cast on Demjanjuk conviction

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli supreme court on Wednesday heard surprise evidence casting new doubt on the notion that John Demjanjuk, sentenced to hang for Nazi war crimes, was the sadistic gas chamber operator known as "Ivan the terrible." The evidence, obtained by lawyers from the Soviet Union because of improving relations, shows that the guard who killed hundreds of thousands at Treblinka death camp in World War II was not Demjanjuk, but a man named Ivan Marchenko. "In 15,000 documents from the Soviet Union, there isn't one document that connects Demjanjuk to Treblinka," defense lawyer Yoram Shelef told the five-judge court at a five-hour hearing. The court refused Mr. Shelef's request to free Mr. Demjanjuk, 71 an Ukrainian-born, but accepted the new evidence and agreed to reconvene in December to give both sides time to collect more Soviet documents. Mr. Demjanjuk was deported in 1986 from the United States, where he settled after the war, and was sentenced to death in 1988 for alleged war crimes in Nazi-occupied Poland. He always maintained he was a victim of mistaken identity.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Petra Press Foundation

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His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday meets expatriates and their families arriving from Kuwait (Petra photo)

King decries Kuwaiti violations of expatriates' right, urges West to help

World silence should not continue; Jordan has taken what it could, and will do what it can to help returnees, but needs urgent assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday warned the international community against maintaining silence over Kuwait's violations of the human rights of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in the emirate and demanded international intervention.

"There will be a summit ... in September in Morocco," Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahim said, adding it would be preceded by a foreign ministers' meeting. "Contracts continue (between the five) to find a common attitude" to the peace conference, he said in an interview on Algerian Radio. He also confirmed that the Palestine National Council would meet in Algeria in September and urged it to devote itself to "reflection." "The situation (of the Palestinians) is very grave ...," he added.

Algeria concerned but hopeful about Sahara conflict

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria said Wednesday it was concerned about the renewed conflict in the Western Sahara but hopeful that the dispute in the territory will be resolved. A Moroccan government source said Tuesday that Rabat was barring from the Western Sahara a United Nations mission assigned to supervise a referendum on the territory's future. A formal ceasefire is due to come into force on Sept. 6, after an informal truce lasting nearly two years. Both sides have accused the other of trying to sabotage the U.N. plan. "We hope that all this is only a summer cloud which is going to disappear rapidly," Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Ibrahim said in an interview on Algerian Radio Wednesday, adding that the official position of Rabat had not changed.

Turkish minister visits north Cyprus

ANKARA (AP) — Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray started a three-day official visit to the breakaway Turkish state of northern Cyprus Wednesday to prepare for talks about the divided island's future. U.S. President George Bush said earlier this month that Turkey and Greece agreed to discuss settlement of the dispute together with the Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders. The four-day talks were expected to be held in the United States in September. Before his departure, Mr. Giray stressed the importance attached by Turkey to the success of the talks but said adequate preparations were needed for the meeting to bear fruit. Later in a dispatch from Nicosia, Turkey's semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted Mr. Giray as issuing a call to the Greek Cypriot side "to speedily effect a radical policy change that would enable a new tenure of relations between two equal peoples."

Resistance fighters clash with Israeli troops, SLA men

BEIRUT (R) — Resistance fighters clashed with Israeli troops and their local militia allies early Wednesday in South Lebanon, security sources said. They said members of the Islamic Resistance attacked two bases of Israeli forces and South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia in Baydash on the edge of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. No casualties were reported in the 15-minute clash in which machine-guns and anti-tank rockets were used, the sources added. They said Israeli helicopters dropped flares over the battlefield. There was no confirmation of the report from the SLA.

Palestinian boy dies 9 days after shot by Israelis

Peretz: Israel does not need occupied lands for immigrants

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian youth died in hospital Wednesday nine days after Israeli soldiers shot him during demonstrations in the occupied Gaza Strip, his relatives said.

Raafat Al Fasees, 17, was among 13 Palestinians wounded in Shati refugee camp on Aug. 5 during demonstrations after undercover Israeli soldiers gunned down a local teenager who was writing slogans on a wall.

Another youth died from his injuries on Aug. 6.

Family sources said Fasees was shot in the head, neck and hand. Residents said news of the youth's death triggered new tensions in the camp, home to 50,000 Palestinian refugees. They said angry youths set up barricades and burned tires while soldiers surrounded the camp.

Israeli security forces and civilians have killed at least 820 Palestinians since the outbreak of the uprising against Israeli rule in the occupied territories in December 1987.

In the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah, an Israeli soldier was injured in the head during stone-throwing incidents, Palestinians said.

Israeli Immigration Minister Yitzhak Peretz said Wednesday

his country did not need the occupied territories to settle a huge new influx of immigrants.

"Israel can welcome 10 million more immigrants without settling them in the (occupied) territories," Mr. Peretz told France's Radio Shalom.

About 250,000 immigrants have arrived in Israel in the last 18 months and Mr. Peretz said one million more were expected from the Soviet Union alone by 1991.

In the past we built little houses so we needed big areas of land to house the population. Today we can construct tall buildings that can hold many more inhabitants," he said.

"In addition, there are many places in Israel that are still uninhabited, like the (Naqab) desert which could be developed to take in new immigrants."

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is trying to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks, has said that Jewish settlement of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is the greatest obstacle to an agreement.

Israel rejects accusations that it is accelerating the settlement of about 100,000 Jews in the occupied territories in advance of peace negotiations.

Prominent Iraqi Kurd appeals for accord

Hussein. The article was carefully worded to avoid blaming either side for the stalemate. Dr. Agrawi also did not make any suggestion as to how the differences could be resolved.

President Saddam Tuesday met with Kurdish leader Massoud Barzani as the two sides tried to break new ground in the stalled talks. But there was no sign that a breakthrough had occurred.

President Saddam last met with Kurdish leaders in July, including Jalal Talabani, another key member of the coalition of eight Kurdish parties.

Mr. Talabani was instrumental in the rejection of an autonomy agreement for Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds negotiated in June, saying the proposal included very little territory.

rights to adopt a courageous position vis-a-vis such flagrant violations of the rights of the Jordanians and Palestinians, particularly those who are expelled from Kuwait," Petra reported.

The King said large numbers of Jordanians and Palestinians were left stranded at the Kuwait-Iraqi border and others were put aboard planes and sent to countries which refuse to accept them. Among them are "old and sick people, children, school students and people who are in need of urgent medical treatment," the King said.

The King warned the world against "turning a blind eye on what is happening in this region in the wake of the Gulf war, which was said to have been fought for the sake of implementing international legitimacy and protecting human rights and against the use of force to settle conflicts."

The meeting was attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Foreign Minister Abdulla Ensour.

The King told Jordan Television later in the day that he had to meet with the ambassadors and draw their attention to the plight of the returnees.

The King said attention of the world community is no longer focused on this region, as the case was during the Gulf crisis one year ago, and that he asked the ambassadors to convey the reality of the situation to their governments with a view to adopting speedy action and offer assistance.

The King, who have been meeting returnees from Kuwait upon their arrival at the airport over the last two days, said he was deeply moved at the sight of the expatriates, who included sick men and women, children — many of whom bore marks of torture.

The King said the returnees looked "as if they were deprived of sunlight for years."

The King said he was deeply disturbed and could not sleep well thinking of the plight of the destitute people, of those who had been tortured and of those who are stranded on the Kuwait-Iraqi border.

"Jordan will remain an Arab country offering refuge to all Arabs fleeing repression... and will carry out its duty to serve the expatriates," the King said.

Mohammad Kassem, who heads the police investigation department, said: "How could any one quote us as saying the man is dead? We have neither found a body nor ever arrested a kidnapper or a collaborator to extract

such information. We have no information."

Italian diplomats have said in the past that they had information that Mr. Molinari died of a heart attack while trying to resist his abduction. However, in the absence of concrete proof, the Italian government still lists him as missing and presumed kidnapped.

No group has claimed his abduction, and none of the hostages released in recent years has ever reported being held with the Italian.

"The process has started and it will not stop. It's going to continue to a happy ending. It can't be blunted unless a regional power vetoes it," said the Shiite cleric, apparently referring to the Iranian among the 11 missing Westerners.

The news reports quoted unnamed police sources as saying he was killed by mistake shortly after his abduction on Sept. 11 1985.

"We have no information of the sort," said Samir Shaarani, the chief of police, when asked about the report.

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In Geneva, Mr. Perez de Cuellar dampened hopes for an imminent solution to the hostage crisis.

Speaking after meeting with senior Israeli envoys, Mr. Perez de Cuellar said it would be "naive" to expect any end to the crisis in the next few days.

Earlier, he had been asked if he expected Israel to free some prisoners by the weekend, he said "that's my hope," Uri Lubrani, the head of the Israeli delegation, when asked whether Israel was prepared to make a sign of "goodwill" by releasing some detainees, said "this was not discussed."

"The negotiations will go ahead in a much quieter manner in order to clarify position," Mr. Perez de Cuellar told journalists after the 90-minute talks at his luxury hotel outside Geneva.

Mr. Lubrani, his country's top hostage negotiator, described the talks as "very fruitful, very friendly." And Mr. Perez de Cuellar said he got "very strong support" from the Israeli government.

The release of Israel's Arab prisoners is the key demands of the kidnappers.

Israel for its part insists on information about the fate of the seven servicemen missing in Lebanon since 1982.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's spokesman declined to comment when asked if Bonn was considering an exchange as part of the United Nations efforts.

(Continued on page 5)

Little sign of U.S. heeding PLO conditions on peace conference

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sees no evidence that the United States accepts its refusal of Israeli demands over a Palestinian delegation to a Middle East peace conference.

But PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat said Tuesday that he has drawn no final conclusions.

The King said he had also heard about the plight of large numbers of Iraqi citizens who cannot afford to rent a room and others who need urgent medical treatment. "Jordan has a heavy duty towards these people," he said.

"We have to offer sacrifices, knowing very well that the situation will not last forever and we have to relieve the suffering of all these people in the best manner we can," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, the King issued an appeal to the Jordanian people to open their hearts and homes to the plight of Jordanians and Palestinians returning from Kuwait.

"We have to share our food with them. This is our destiny and we will do it with all the love in our hearts," he told a radio phone-in programme.

He said the world seemed oblivious to the tragedy of the thousands of expatriates who are still flooding out of Kuwait after losing their jobs and having their children denied access to schools.

The Palestinians had formed the backbone of Kuwaiti government and business. Many were born in the emirate or had lived there for decades.

Kuwait, incensed by what it saw that Jordanian and Palestine

come of the U.S. talks with Israeli and Jordanian officials and Palestinian representatives.

Following are some of the comments by State Department spokesman Richard Boucher at a briefing Tuesday:

"As you know, we've had a team of experts out there. They're scheduled to return today. While in the region, they met with appropriate Israeli and Jordanian officials and with Palestinian representatives to explore how best to deal with various issues related to a peace conference."

"The process will not be a mechanism to bring off this package deal," he said.

"The process to work out a mechanism to bring off this package deal is in Perez de Cuellar's hands. No one is going to be released outside the framework of this package," he said.

The Palestinians meeting the U.S. officials included Faisal Husseini, an East Jerusalemite who is close to Fatah, the mainstream movement within the PLO.

They have asked the U.S. for written guarantees that the talks will lead to Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, a halt to Israeli settlement there, and the right of the Palestinians to self-determination.

Mr. Arafat said that the American response to those demands will influence the position of the PLO, which is trying to rally Arab support over East Jerusalem.

Israel says it will attend the talks only on condition that the PLO has no role and that Palestinians from East Jerusalem be excluded.

Mr. Arafat, while welcoming the conference, insists that East Jerusalem Palestinians be represented.

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Peres' trip to Turkey linked to water

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's former Prime Minister Shimon Peres mysterious trip to Turkey was linked to Middle East water issues, an aide to Mr. Peres said in an interview published Wednesday.

Water is expected to be one of the issues discussed at an Arab-Israeli peace conference.

The PLO leader made the comments to Radio Monte Carlo, a Middle East radio service which will broadcast the interview to the region Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Even if the United States fashions a Camp David-like Middle East peace accord, it will not be able to actually bring peace to the region. Mr. Arafat said in the interview, a partial transcript of which was released Wednesday.

The PLO chief was referring to the 1979 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

The United States "could bring an end to the Arab boycott of Israel, but it will not be able to bring about peace," Mr. Arafat said.

"That is because for the Palestinians, there will never be peace in the Middle East" if they are not present at the negotiating table.

Asked about the isolation of the PLO by some countries in recent

Palestinians: Israeli troops shooting Arabs to sabotage peace

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Palestinian nationalists have accused Israeli troops of shooting Arabs in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in an attempt to torpedo peace moves.

A bullet wounded a nine-year-old Palestinian boy in the West Bank city of Hebron Tuesday when troops fired warning shots after an Arab driver ran through a roadblock, Israeli television said.

The army was investigating.

Faisal Al Husseini and Hanan Ashrawi, who met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker on his recent Middle East peace shuttle, told an East Jerusalem news conference Israel was carrying out deliberate killings and summary executions of Palestinians.

"This is one way in which Israel can sabotage the peace process and I think the timing is extremely significant," Ms. Ashrawi said.

The Palestinians said Israel's security forces had recently increased use of live ammunition in place of rubber bullets.

"In each incident, there is a deliberate killing without any attempt to disperse the demonstrators or warn them," said Ghassan Al Khaitib, an academic and prominent nationalist.

The army denied the nationalists' charges.

"There is no change in the open fire orders," an army spokesman said.

Earlier this week Israeli officials accused Palestinians of stepping up their 44-month-long revolt against Israeli occupation because of frustration with the peace process.

"The political process brings this increase because they (Palestinians) want to express more and more 'look we are here. Don't forget us,'" Jerusalem police chief Haim Albaldess said. Israelis have killed at least 819 Arabs since the start of the uprising, including five who died between Aug. 5-11.

Israel has agreed to U.S. proposals for a Middle East peace conference provided Palestinians from Arab East Jerusalem and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are barred from the talks.

U.N. report: Iran needs resources for reconstruction

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A U.N. report released Tuesday said that the damage to Iran from the Iran-Iraq war was so great that repair and reconstruction will require several years.

The report also said that Iran needs access to financial resources, foreign equipment and technology in order to rebuild after the devastating conflict within a "reasonable" period.

The 188-page report says reconstruction of the physical infrastructure destroyed or damaged in the 1980-88 conflict will be "costly and lengthy," because most of the war was fought on Iranian territory. It does not make specific recommendations.

"Damage inflicted on the country's infrastructure was of a magnitude and nature that will require several years of repair or reconstruction," it said, adding that restoration of production and services will be seriously delayed.

The report was required under Security Council Resolution 598 of July 1987 which demanded an end to the Iran-Iraq war and called for a U.N. assessment of damage. A U.N. team headed by former Under-Secretary-General Abdulrahim Farah visited Iran from May 31 to June 21.

The report says that Iran esti-

Palestinians rejected Israel's conditions.

An army report published Tuesday recommends that soldiers be stripped of responsibility for interrogating Palestinians at detention centres in the occupied territories.

It also suggests reducing the number of these lockups in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, arguing that fewer Palestinians were being held there.

The report was submitted by Rafael Vardi who was asked by chief of staff Ehud Barak in May to investigate 16 complaints that soldiers had used illegal force against Arab detainees in army-run lockups.

The army statement did not detail Major General Vardi's findings on specific allegations or say which security bodies he should question Palestinian detainees.

It said only that he recommended further military police investigation into eight of the 16 cases, and that military prosecutors were implementing the two-step deal to free Western hostages.

Gen. Vardi also urged commanders to "sharpen army regulations which outlaw even the possibility of using threats against civilian detainees," the statement said.

It added that Lt.-Gen. Barak had accepted the recommendations and was already carrying them out.

Gen. Barak ordered the unusual internal probe following strong criticism from human rights groups about how Palestinians are treated in army jails.

The Israeli human rights organisation Betsalel said in a report in March that as many as 6,000 of the 75,000 Palestinians detained during the uprising were mistreated during interrogation.

But laid most blame on the Shin Bet security service which is responsible for questioning most Palestinians.

In its response to Gen. Vardi's findings, Betsalel was guarded, saying it hoped it meant the army would "put an end to the plague of violence in Israel army prison facilities."

Jibril says 3 missing Israelis are alive

DAMASCUS (Agencies) —

The leader of a hardline Palestinian faction said Tuesday that he learned from Shiite Muslim groups in Lebanon that three Israeli soldiers are alive and could be part of a two-step deal to free Western hostages.

Ahmed Jibril, commander of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), gave the statement in a telephone interview but did not say which Israelis were still alive.

Israel has said it wants information on seven missing soldiers before it will agree to take part in a prisoner swap that could lead to freedom for 11 Westerners missing in Lebanon.

Mr. Jibril did not offer any proof that the three Israelis were still living.

He said he learned of the three from those who hold them. The Israeli soldiers disappeared during military operations in southern Lebanon, and the PFLP-GC is among the groups that organised resistance against Israel from their

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Mr. Jibril told the Associated Press that the prisoner swap should be on the basis of the live Israeli prisoners.

"I will exchange the live people and I don't want dead people," Mr. Jibril said. He suggested but did not confirm that this was the arrangement with Hezbollah.

Mr. Jibril said there should be "two separate deals. The first concerns the release of civilians and the second concerns the release of military people."

The first deal would involve exchanging the Western hostages for Palestinians and Lebanese seized as civilians, Mr. Jibril said.

The second exchange, he said, would be the three Israelis for "Palestinians and Lebanese prisoners who have been arrested during military operations in Lebanon."

Mr. Jibril said that he did not have any bodies of Israeli soldiers. Earlier there had been speculation that the PFLP-GC, expelled from the PLO in 1987 three years after leading a mutiny to unseat PLO leader Yasser Arafat, might have one of the bodies.

Another faction, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, says it has the body of a Druze soldier that the Israelis have refused to acknowledge.

Israel and its proxy militia in South Lebanon hold about 400 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners. Most are in Kham prison in South Lebanon operated by the South Lebanon Army militia, armed and financed by Israel.

The destruction of the oil and gas fields and the devastation of Kham Island, one of the world's largest oil-loading facilities, drastically reduced the nation's ability to generate revenue.

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The Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon were captured during military operations dating back to Israel's 1982 invasion of the neighbouring country.

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the friendly fire in the Gulf war was caused by thermal sights on U.S. weapons that fire on targets so far away the person firing cannot see them. The thermal sights something did not give enough detail to distinguish U.S. forces from Iraqi forces, he said.

But he said the primary cause was the high speed of the warfare in which allied divisions swept into southern Iraq and surrounded Iraqi forces to end the war in just four days.

No casualties resulted from one ship-to-ship, one shore-to-ship and one ground-to-air engagement, the statement said.

"We regret these incidents of friendly fire and the delay in concluding our review," said Col. Roger Brown, the army's deputy chief of staff for operations, who said the military took some time in order to provide "an accurate and complete analysis" of the information.

Col. Brown said military officials believe they have investigated all known and suspected instances of friendly fire.

The 15 of the deaths and 18 of

wounded "friendly fire" casu-

alities were logged prior to the start of the 100-hour ground campaign against the Iraqi forces began on Feb. 24, the Defence Department said.

Seventeen marines were killed and two wounded on Jan. 29 when an air force A-10 "tank killer" plane fired a Maverick missile that malfunctioned and hit their armoured vehicle.

It said the 35 killed by "friendly fire" — U.S. forces accidentally firing on each other — were among the 148 Americans killed in the war in all, and the 72 were among a total of 467 injured.

It said 24 Americans were killed and 57 wounded by U.S. ground forces firing on each other, and 11 were killed and 15 wounded by U.S. planes firing on ground forces.

The 17 per cent rate of accidental casualties was probably far higher for the United States than reported in any other war, Marine Lieutenant-General Martin Brandtner said.

But he said that may be because investigators were able to gather full details on every incident of the Gulf war, while figures as low as only two per cent in previous wars were based on estimates.

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But he said the primary cause was the high speed of the warfare in which allied divisions swept into southern Iraq and surrounded Iraqi forces to end the war in just four days.

No casualties resulted from one ship-to-ship, one shore-to-ship and one ground-to-air engagement, the statement said.

"We regret these incidents of friendly fire and the delay in concluding our review," said Col. Roger Brown, the



ARAB BANK GROUP

Profile

ARAB BANK Plc is owned by approximately 3,300 shareholders from all Arab countries. It was established in 1930 in Jerusalem - Palestine. The Bank started operations on July 14, 1930 with a paid-up capital of Palestinian pounds 15,000 (at that time, a Palestinian pound equalled US\$5). By the end of December 1990, the Group's equity was more than US\$900 million. In 1948, due to the unstable political conditions, Arab Bank General Management was moved to Amman, the capital of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. Later the Bank was reincorporated in Jordan as a public shareholding company.

Currently, Arab Bank Group has a worldwide and diversified network of more than 270 branches. Arab Bank Plc is one of the principal financial institutions in the Arab World and ranks among the leading international banks in terms of equity, earnings and assets. It is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies, and other international financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking, trade financing, merchant banking, commercial real estate lending and international banking.

Arab Bank Group employs a prudent asset management policy which is centered on selecting a prime loan portfolio and, at the same time, maintaining high liquidity. On June 30, 1991, the liquid-

ity ratio (Cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities to total assets) amounted to 65.5%.

By the end of June 1991, Arab Bank Group's equity amounted to 6.4% of total assets. The capital adequacy ratio for the Group, measured according to the Basle Committee rule, was around 14%. Moreover, total equity corresponded to more than 21% of the loan portfolio, placing the Bank in a very sound financial position.

During the first half of 1991, Arab Bank Group maintained its optimal assets size despite a decline of 3.5% in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and 21.3% in the exchange rate of the Swiss franc against the U.S. dollar. Total assets of the Group remained virtually unchanged at US\$13.1 billion.

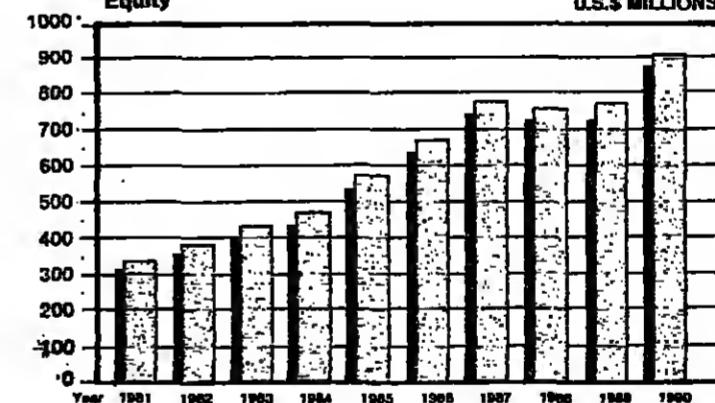
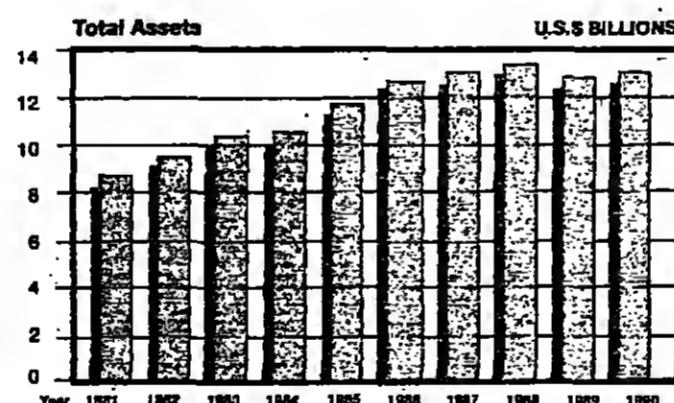
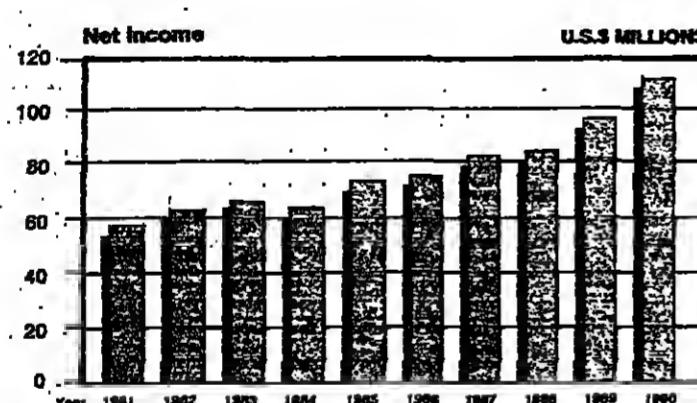
Most of the Group's external sources of funds are composed of stable customers' deposits which give the Group ample room to manage its assets efficiently and reflect the customers' longstanding confidence and loyalty. Total deposits at the end of June 1991 reached 12 billion.

Arab Bank Group looks to the future with great optimism and determination. The Group plans to continue to play a leading role in the economies of the Arab world and at the same time it will endeavour to enhance its position as a major financial institution in the international markets.

ARAB BANK GROUP Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1991 and 1990

	30/06/1991	30/06/1990		30/06/1991	30/06/1990
	US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)		US\$ ('000)	US\$ ('000)
Assets			Liabilities		
Cash in hand and at banks	7,712,421	7,576,159	Deposits and other accounts	12,012,182	12,106,214
Securities and investments	886,831	917,549	Acceptances	96,909	61,588
Loans and advances	3,878,744	3,944,248	Accrued interest payable	57,971	94,443
Customers' liability on acceptances	96,909	61,588	Other liabilities	122,656	65,167
Investments in associated companies	204,995	234,927	Total liabilities	12,289,718	12,327,412
Premises and equipment	81,015	74,893	Shareholders' Equity		
Accrued interest receivable	93,485	123,237	Capital	118,905	86,939
Other assets	180,297	192,591	Statutory reserve	78,365	77,450
Total Assets	13,134,697	13,125,192	General reserve	547,604	478,205
Customers' liability on guarantees and letters of credit	2,508,555	2,398,505	Voluntary reserve	122,666	141,379
Total	15,643,252	15,523,697	Reserves with associated companies	163,579	160,499
			Retained earnings	559	538
			Total	1,031,678	945,010
			Translation adjustments	(186,699)	(147,230)
			Total shareholders' Equity	844,979	797,780
			Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	13,134,697	13,125,192
			Guarantees and letters of credit	2,508,555	2,398,505
			Total	15,643,252	15,523,697

Net profit for the period ended June 30, 1991 and June 30, 1990 was included in "Other liabilities".



ARAB BANK Sister Institutions, Subsidiaries and Associated Companies



Arab Bank(Switzerland) Ltd.,

Zurich, Geneva

*wholly owned by shareholders of
Arab Bank Plc*

Arab Australia Ltd., Sydney

wholly owned subsidiary

Arab Bank (Austria) AG, Vienna

wholly owned subsidiary

Finance, Accountancy, Mohassaba S.A., Geneva

wholly owned subsidiary

Percentage of Ownership %

Arab Tunisian Bank	64.24
Arab Bank Maroc	50.00
Oman Arab Bank	49.00
Arab National Bank, Saudi Arabia	40.00
Nigeria-Arab Bank Ltd.,	40.00
UBAE Arab German Bank	37.45

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A deafening silence

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's denunciation of the violations of the human rights of Jordanians and Palestinians in Kuwait and his criticism of the pointed international silence over the issue as well as his emotional appeal to his people to open their hearts and homes to the tragedy that has befallen their brethren should not be ignored by the West. His Majesty's words have not come out of a vacuum and they should be treated in all the seriousness they deserve as the grim reminder of a living reality that Jordan has to live and cope with as a result of the Gulf crisis.

On the one hand, the American-led anti-Iraqi coalition members have been very conveniently silent about the inhuman treatment by Kuwaitis of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates in the emirate following the Gulf war, including "executions," torture, summary detentions and arbitrary trials. The forced displacement of Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates, who contributed lifetimes to building and developing Kuwait, has also met with very little international response. It is indeed surprising that the same coalition that described the war that it fought against Iraq as something that had to be done if human rights were to be safeguarded and if the rejection of use of force to settle conflicts was to be reaffirmed as a principle has remained silent. We could still remember some of the leaders of the coalition shedding tears over the "inhuman treatment that Kuwaiti women and children and the sick in the emirate were subjected to during the occupation."

On the other hand, there is little doubt that this inaction and silence on the part of the coalition over whatever is happening in Kuwait has only encouraged the Kuwaitis to continue what they were doing and planned to do. There cannot be any escape for the coalition from this reality and by extension the so-called "allies" have more than a moral responsibility to redress the repercussions of the Kuwaiti actions.

Nobody needs any reminder that Jordan, despite its limited resources, offered its hospitality and opened its facilities to each and every evictee from Kuwait and the Gulf who passed through the Kingdom on his or her way out of the war theatre. And now it is faced with the additional burden of over 300,000 people straining its resources. Jordan needs assistance and needs it badly.

That is indeed only part of the story. But let us address this part first and then we can come to the rest of the scenario.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IN its editorial Wednesday Al Ra'i daily welcomed the returning expatriates and said Jordan would always remain an open country for all Arabs, especially those who face repression abroad. It is a hell of a country that they left behind and it is a paradise they have come to and a welcoming people they are bound to meet everywhere, said Al Ra'i daily. The paper noted that the expatriates had faced death many times a day and were steadfast in the face of repression until they had the chance to come back to their homeland with their heads raised high. Those who drove off the Jordanian and Palestinian expatriates from their homes in Kuwait had themselves fled their own country to live in luxurious hotels and spent their time, during the Gulf crisis, at the gambling tables in world capitals while the expatriates remained steadfast and later faced repression with courage, said the paper. It said that the expatriates had sweated for years, building a country for the Kuwaitis who do not deserve it. It said that Jordan, which has been victim to all forms of pressure and siege, is willing to share with the returnees the bread and the water which it possesses, and to help them keep their heads raised high with dignity and honour. The paper welcomed the expatriates and said that Jordan, which is the land of honourable and courageous people, opens its arms for them and offers them, and other Arabs, a home and a place safe from repression and injustice.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily strongly criticised the Ministry of Tourism for promising the public facilities to encourage domestic tourism and hotels in tourist areas which charge exorbitant prices for their services, making it almost impossible for the majority of Jordanians to contemplate a trip. Nazih said that the Ministry of Tourism had so far failed to implement a national plan to stimulate domestic tourism that would enable citizens to spend their vacation at a modest cost. The ministry's attempts to tempt the citizens to visit the archaeological and tourist areas in Jordan have all failed simply because most Jordanians cannot afford the high prices of ordinary services at these sites, the writer noted. He said that hotels and restaurants operated by the public or the private sectors charged high prices for services and accommodation and did not differentiate between local citizens and foreign visitors. If the ministry is serious about making its national programme a success, and determined to boost domestic tourism so that people would not opt for visits abroad, the writer advised, it must search for the real causes that prompt people to shun local tourist sites. He said that the ministry should deal with such questions like reducing the cost of a glass of juice whose price reaches five times its normal rate at any of the country's hotels.

May the best man win, not waste or whims

By Sofwan Bataineh

NOVEMBER, 1989: Two men are talking about the events in Eastern Europe. The elder man, an elegant politician of certain prominence, spoke at leisure of the economic and political benefits awaiting the Arab World after the breakdown of communist regimes. He parroted the contemporary clichés of the Western press, the source of his patently shallow education, about the brave new world, masses yearning for liberty and democracy, and so forth. The other man, a bespectacled and pudgy fellow, stammered out his sentences hurriedly, clearly fearing interruptions by a disinterested audience. He spoke of an eventual emergence of a bloc of nations spanning the northern hemisphere: a mass of advanced earthlings, mostly of European descent, sharing common beliefs and values and united in their outlook vis-à-vis the rest of humanity. He summed up by prophesying that the end of the East-West rivalry will be marked by a revival of the North-South conflict, simmering ever since the days of colonialism and that such a conflict will find immediate manifestation in a bloody incidence somewhere in South America or the Middle East. When he finished contradicting the politician's argument, there was a long moment of silence in the room before someone aptly changed the subject. I recall feeling quite sorry for that pudgy fellow as he was roundly ignored for the rest of the sitting. Today, the elegant politician holds a high public office. The pudgy fellow is unemployed.

August, 1990: A well-known public figure delights a luncheon crowd with his previous interpretations of the events taking place in the Gulf. Impeccable in deportment and gracious to a fault, the man spoke eloquently and softly about a grand American bluff designed to perpetuate the crisis in order to raise oil prices and

undermine the economies of Japan and Germany. He concluded by assuring his mesmerised audience that the awesome arsenal in Iraq's possession will preclude any serious military action by the United States and its Western allies.

As I reflected upon these words of wisdom, a familiar and dissonant voice rang out from the crowd. I turned and there he was, the bespectacled and pudgy fellow. Clumsy as ever, but with a newly acquired self-confidence, he jarringly declared that Japan, with its highly efficient utilisation of energy, will become unbeatably competitive if oil prices were to remain above fifty dollars a barrel. He went on—a most cheeky fellow—to repeat his earlier warnings about the North-South divide, claiming that the Gulf crisis is the first manifestation of such a conflict. He explained that the advanced Northern countries, having reached general agreement on a new shape for the earth, now need to achieve total hegemony over the Third World and force it to sing harmoniously from the same music sheet. He argued that the United States will inevitably stage a devastating and total military strike to intimidate the Third World into submission and to assert its leadership over the Northern club of nations. Finally, he urged the listless gathering not to harbour any illusions about the outcome of such a war and counted off some of the expected consequences to the Gulf crisis, including a massive influx of refugees into Jordan, a severe social and economic upheaval, and the imposition of Western dictates on the area.

Presently, the gracious public figure turns his analytical gems into official documents all day long while the pudgy fellow—you've guessed it—remains unemployed.

In the span of time between those two dates, a certain ministry has lost most of its top-notch staff through transfers and resignations. Not long ago, this ministry prided itself on retaining some of the best talents in public service. Now it resembles those

hollow shells decreed so often in His Majesty's speeches.

More recently, a different ministry has chosen to scrap the qualifying examinations which were introduced by the previous minister to ensure that promotions were made solely on the basis of merit. The present minister, who has won notoriety for political patronage, seems to have found the merit system a cumbersome nuisance.

Unfortunately, these anecdotes cannot be filed under the heading of "it can happen anywhere." Stories about the absence of fairness and objective criteria in appointments and promotions have become regular features in daily conversations. Just ask any Jordanian with a work experience and he or she will overwhelm you with their own tales of woes on the subject. The merit system, which is the life support of human progress, is sadly missing from the public and quasi-public sectors (with the possible exception of the Armed Forces) and is to be found only in trade and undeveloped forms in private industry. Worst of all, certain by-laws, like the civil service code, have institutionalised the elimination of upward and horizontal mobility and have rendered it impossible to promote or demote most classes of employees on the basis of merit (or lack of it).

Creating a merit system is a litmus test for both the government and the nation. Government cannot succeed in achieving sustainable economic growth without undertaking radical administrative reforms (which cannot begin unless a merit system is instituted). The nation, on the other hand, can never lay claim to high morals and decency if it fails to offer its citizens fair and equal chances in life. If we are to survive as a prosperous and viable nation, we must soon be able to say to our citizens, as they line up for the race of life, and say it in all sincerity: "May the best man win."

Jordan's water resources and uses

By Ali Z. Ghazawi

HAVING long been a source of contention in the Middle East, water is likely to take on even greater geopolitical importance in the coming decades. A large proportion of the region's population depends on water resources which originate in other countries, and current supplies are being squeezed by the demands of a burgeoning population. In this context, the influx of Soviet Jewry into Israel is particularly destabilising as Palestine's natural water resources are already severely overstretched, and the occupied West Bank contains 35-40 per cent of the Jewish state's hydrological reserves. Insofar as these factors complicate the equation of land for peace, and increase the attractions of the "transfer option" to Israeli policy-makers, they also raise the likelihood of Jordan, already one of the poorest Middle Eastern states in terms of water availability, becoming the chief victim of any future struggle for water. By the year 2005 Jordan's demand for water will increase by more than 65 per cent and on the other hand population will grow by more than 70 per cent. The following article highlights the issue of Jordan's water resource, uses, and prices and comes out with recommendations at both the local and the regional levels. In a 3-part series, the author, describes the importance of water to Jordan, various water uses and pricing and then proposes a set of recommendations to enhance the country's water resources.

The importance of water resource development for Jordan

increases annual demand for water by 60 MCM/year.

Jordan water resources

DESPITE their relative scarcity, natural resources are a chief support for Jordan's national economy. Water is one of the scarcest natural resources in Jordan, which depends largely on rainfall to meet its requirements for domestic supply, agriculture and industrial uses. During the last four years the average volume of annual rainfall in Jordan was about 9,191 million cubic metres (MCM), part of which is lost to evaporation, while part flows through wadis and rivers to the Dead Sea, as shown in Table (1). Average annual rainfall ranges between 500mm in semi-humid areas in the north west of the country to less than 100mm in arid desert areas, as shown in Table (2). Of the 92,600 square kilometres area of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, only 8.6 per cent receives more than 200mm rainfall annually, and can therefore be considered as suitable for cultivation. Of the cultivated area, approximately 93 per cent depends directly upon natural rainfall. The remaining 7 per cent is irrigated. Nonetheless this area produces approximately 40 per cent of the agricultural production, and 70 per cent of the gross agricultural product.

Ground water: This is estimated at about 480 MCM or 60 per cent of the total developed water supplies. Ground water generates from the following sources:

(i) Rainfall (rainfall recharge) which is 270 MCM or 56 per cent of the total supply of the ground water.

(ii) Fossil — including aquifers

that are considered a strategic water resource — This amounts to 210 MCM or 43 per cent of the total supply of the ground water.

Furthermore, aquifers provide Jordan about 50 MCM annually.

At this rate it is expected that

gross agricultural product:

Water resources in Jordan are

a key factor in socio-economic

development. A deficiency or de-

crease in water supply would

have a constricting effect on the

general development effort.

Therefore, developing the water

resources sector is crucial for

growth to the other sectors, and is

considered to be a top priority of

governmental policy. Jordanian

policy-makers and planners are

under tremendous pressure to

confront the bottleneck set by the

limited water resources resulting

from an arid climate and a re-

lative scarce, uneven and fluctu-

ating rainfall. The situation has

been exacerbated by the return of

400,000 Jordanian workers and

their families from the Gulf states

as a result of the Gulf crisis. This

is reflected in the following table:

Table (1) Rainfall in Jordan

Table (2) Jordan Land Area Classified by Rainfall in 1990

for the Jordan Valley are declining as a result of the reluctance of the major financing agencies to commit themselves to a project that requires Israeli acceptance.

Water uses

In 1990, about 59 per cent of Jordan's population received safe drinking water. From the year 1990 to the year 2005 Jordan's total water consumption will increase from 730 MCM to 1,120 MCM or by more than 65 per cent. Table (4) shows water consumption by sector in 1990 and 2005.

It has been estimated that Jordan's per capita water consumption is about 230 cubic metres (m³) annually with a potential increase to 250m³ if the water resources are developed efficiently. This is still far below the world standard water poverty line of 1,000m³ per capita annually.

Agriculture uses

In 1990, the agriculture sector consumed 520 MCM or 71 per cent of Jordan's total water consumption. Jordan's irrigated land exceeds 700,000 dunums (175,000 acres), 46 per cent of which lies mainly in the Jordan Valley, utilising water from Yarmouk River and the side wadis flowing into Jordan River. However, these 700,000 dunums could be irrigated by 340 MCM annually by the use of drip irrigation methods, which would save the country about 180 MCM. This saved amount would exceed Jordan's 1990 domestic water consumption. In view of the special importance of the Jordan Valley in terms of its development potential for expanding and diversifying agricultural production, the government decided to develop this region on an integrated basis.

Water of water consumed:

A set of criteria was established to identify and determine the range of water consumed. The boundaries between the ranges were chosen according to income, geographical location and the purpose of usage.

Rate for the consumed water:

The price of water is not linear. When establishing the price policy guidelines, the social structure, the purpose of utilisation and a measure to reduce over consumption are all taken into consideration. As a result water prices increase drastically on consuming more than a definite amount of water.

Water uses and prices

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation provides water to subscribers for different uses. Pricing policy of water depend upon water applications:

— For domestic uses water prices in JD/cubic metre are: progressive starting at 0.065

— For industrial uses prices in JD/cubic metres range between 0.30-0.65.

— For agricultural uses prices are subsidised at JD 0.006 per cubic metre.

Conclusions

Jordan, as a Middle Eastern country with the severest water shortages, should tackle the issue both locally and regionally.

Regionally

— Jordan could cooperate with other countries in the region to initiate the "peace pipeline project" from Turkey. It is worth mentioning here that the cost of the "peace pipeline project" would equal just 15 per cent of the total expenses of the Gulf war. This project would enhance cooperation between the pipeline beneficiaries.

— Since Jordan is a non-oil exporting country, joint water desalination plants should be established in order to share in cost and technology, perhaps by utilising a small nuclear plant for this purpose.

— Jordan could also share

technology associated with water discovery and uses among neighbouring countries after a peaceful settlement in the region.

— Jordan could also import

water from other countries such as Iraq (Euphrates) and Egypt (Nile).

Locally

— Managing and developing renewable water resources in order to keep up with growing demand for water.

(Continued on page 5)

Table (1) Jordan Annual Rainfall (1986-1990)

Year	Quantity (MCM)	% Change
1986/1987	6,700	—
1987/1988	12,252	55
1988/1989	10,205	-20
1989/1990	7,609	-34
Average	9,191	

Egypt breathing new life into ancient mysteries

By Sara Al Gamal
Reuter

GIZA — Egyptologists attempting to turn the Giza Plateau, site of the pyramids, into an open museum believe they may have found a new pyramid.

Workers clearing dirt and rubbish from Egypt's 5,000-year-old monuments have found what seems to be the side of a pyramid buried under centuries of sand to the east of the Great Pyramid of Cheops.

"It looks like the structure of a pyramid and this is why we are digging around all the sides to see what this structure is," said Zahi Hawass, director-general of the Giza Pyramids area.

"It should be a pyramid. It has to be a pyramid... but we must wait and see."

The discovery, which could be Egypt's 95th pyramid, came to light when workers cleared sand from the tombs of Pharaoh Cheops' sons during a project to improve the Giza Plateau on the edge of the desert southwest of Cairo.

Mr. Hawass wants to return the area to its character of thousands of years ago when Cheops was building himself the largest of all the pyramids.

Now he plans to turn paved streets into dirt roads, the way they were thousands of years ago.

Hawass also intends to dust off three neglected "queens" pyramids said to belong to Cheops' wives and mother.

Workers are chipping away eroding salt crystals from burial chambers in the pyramids to prepare for opening them to the public in October for the first time.

"They just stood there by

built over a 5,000-year-old mortuary temple discovered late last century. A tomb encased in cement many years ago is to be uncovered.

Mr. Hawass, backed by the Ministry of Culture, has already banned horse and camel owners from offering rides around the three Giza pyramids. He also specified parking areas for cars and coaches in the vicinity.

Now he plans to turn paved streets into dirt roads, the way they were thousands of years ago.

Hawass also intends to dust off three neglected "queens" pyramids said to belong to Cheops' wives and mother.

Workers are chipping away eroding salt crystals from burial chambers in the pyramids to prepare for opening them to the public in October for the first time.

"They just stood there by

the great pyramid. Nobody thought of opening them or restoring them," said Mr. Hawass.

Alaa Mohammad, supervising the dig, said it took two weeks to excavate three metres. Pottery shards dating back to the old kingdom when the Giza pyramids were built were found.

The dig is also exposing contradictory theories on the origin of the buried structures.

One mystery is the discovery by American archaeologist C.A. Reisner in 1925 of an unopened, vertical 30-metre shaft near the queens' pyramids filled with furniture and funerary equipment of Queen Hetepheres, mother of Cheops. The queen's mummy was missing.

Reisner believed Hetepheres was buried in a tomb at Dashur several

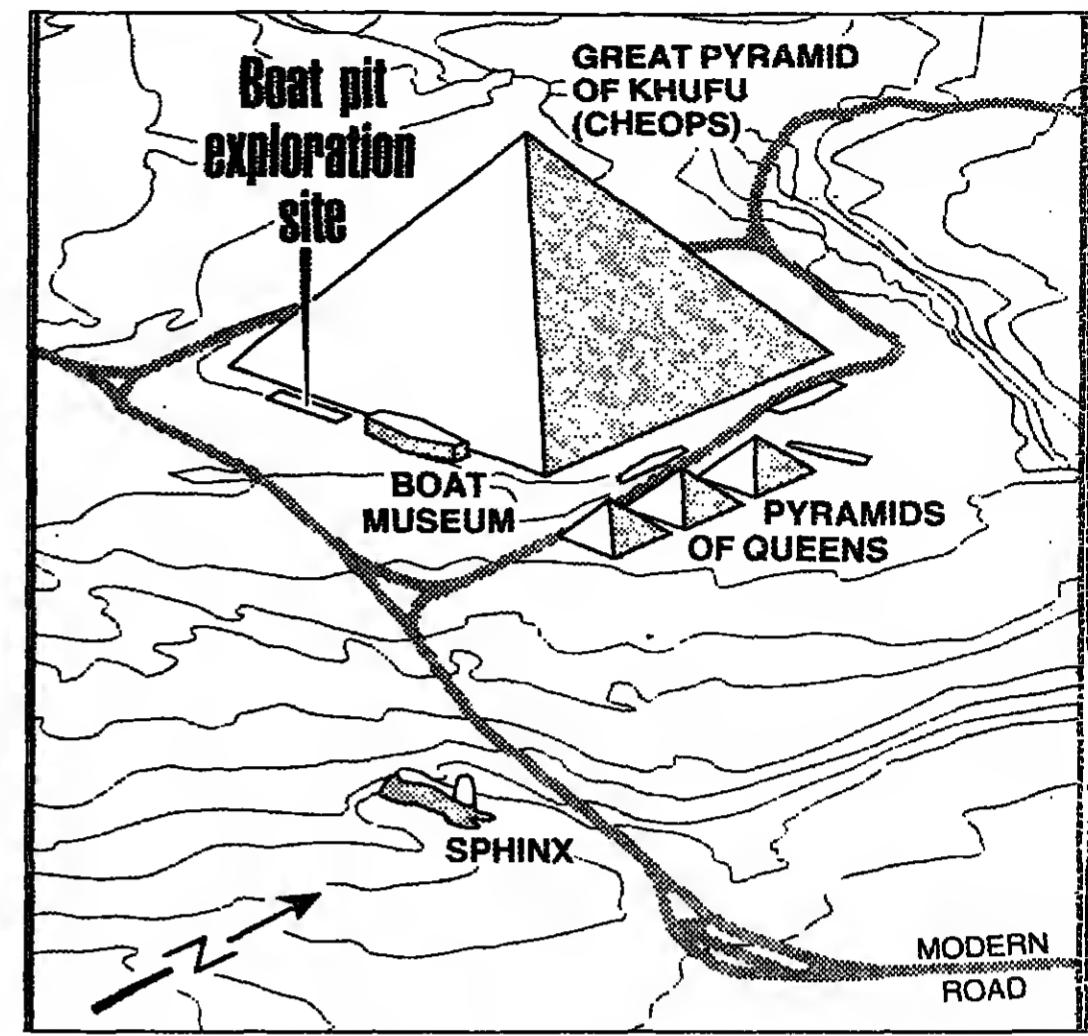
kilometre from Giza but that robbers soon broke into it and stole the queen's corpse, adorned with gold and jewels.

Before they could clear out the rest of the tomb, Cheops got word and ordered his men to retrieve its contents at night and bury it in the shaft.

Now Mr. Hawass disputes

Mr. Reisner's theory. He believes Hetepheres was buried in the pyramid in Giza but that when Cheops' monuments and pyramid were robbed, loyal priests took her funerary equipment out and placed them in the existing shaft nearby.

"That shaft could not be a secret tomb because it would take at least a week to be built," Mr. Hawass said. He said the shaft dated back to the third dynasty, two dynasties before the pyramid of Cheops was built.



Falconry — the art of building a perfect relationship

By Clare Pedrick

ROME — Just half an hour's drive from Rome, on a promontory that overlooks miles of green countryside, trade-unionist Enzo Arcione jumps out of his mud-spattered jeep. As he opens the gate of the small sanctuary in the shade of a medieval monastery, he is given a cacophonous welcome by 10 pairs of peregrine falcons and an assortment of other birds of prey. For although Mr. Arcione has devoted his career to championing the working man, his heart tells him he was born for a nobler calling. His passion in life is falconry, an ancient art practiced by Arab and European kings.

During the week Enzo Arcione can be found at his desk in his Rome office, dealing with the business that goes with being the regional secretary of one of Italy's third largest trade unions. But come Friday afternoon, or earlier if he can manage it, he races out to his dream — the sanctuary that he founded five years ago to breed birds of prey.

Mr. Arcione is one of a small number of Italians who regularly practice the time-honoured sport of falconry. They go out hunting, sometimes meeting to pit their birds against one another. Every so often there are gatherings with their European colleagues, who bring their falcons over to try out new terrain and test their skills. The meetings, says Mr. Arcione, are fun not for their competitive edge, but because they give a group of like-minded people the chance to escape 20th century life and step back into a time when values were different and there was still room for man to form a strong bond with an animal.

"One of the reasons falconry has always been the sport of kings or the gentry is that only they had enough time and money to be able to devote to such an activity," he said. "But in any case, it is a very noble sport — because the bird itself is such a noble creature, and because its role in life is so inextricably linked with nature."

Of the new breed of European falconers, the Germans, the Spanish and the British have the best reputations. That is partly because their countryside is more suited to the art, says Arcione. The landscape falcons like best for their hunting is one of wide open spaces, like the



Enzo Arcione spends most of his leisure time with falcons.

Spanish plains or the moors of Scotland. "Here in Italy, where there are so many hills and mountains, the bird has to adapt its technique," he said. Even so, at a recent meeting down in the wild and rugged southern region of Basilicata, Mr. Arcione and his falcons out-performed all the competition. That gathering was held in the shadow of the 12th century castle of Metili, a vivid reminder of the days when Emperor Frederick II, a good falconer like any self-respecting medieval king, diverted his thoughts from war by taking a retinue of servants out for a day's hunting.

When Mr. Arcione can get the time off from his trade union activities, he tries to take his birds somewhere new. He would like to go to the Middle East, he says, where falconry is more widely practiced. "They understand the aesthetics and the beauty of the sport," he said.

So far, Mr. Arcione has been to Turkey, Scotland, Yugoslavia and Poland. The hunting there has not yet been overexploited and there is plenty of game (partridge and pheasant), a paradise for a falcon and his master. Overhunting in Italy has killed off much of the game. Italian hunters prefer the surer method of a shotgun to chase their prey, a method Mr. Arcione himself abhors.

As for the falcons, they were almost wiped out in the 1960s and 1970s by the use of

too many pesticides, and by the guns and traps of Italian farmers and hunters, who saw the birds as a menace. "That's when I first became interested in falcons," said Mr. Arcione, now 50. "In those days, the government actually offered a reward to anyone who killed a wolf or a falcon, because they were regarded as pests. People used to catch them in traps or even shoot them while they were sitting on their eggs. I found it very disturbing and did what I could to get the law changed."

Falcons — a protected species

Thanks to Mr. Arcione and his fellow campaigners, the falcon is now a protected species in Italy, but there are only 200 or 300 pairs left. Mr. Arcione says he knows they are still being shot and trapped, mainly by gamekeepers on hunting reserves. In an effort to swell the declining population, he has started a breeding programme at his sanctuary outside Rome. Here Mr. Arcione and his staff of two do everything they can to create ideal conditions for reproducing for the falcons, great-horned owls, sparrow hawks and golden eagles. (There are even two pairs of lynxes, a wildcat that was once common in Italy but which is now extinct.)

The process is a long one, but already Mr. Arcione's patience has paid off. A pair

of great-horned owls, released from captivity five years ago, has had offspring. His own favourite falcons, two sisters called Gwendoline and Olivia, were born in captivity just over a year ago, and although Mr. Arcione would never part with either of them, he says he hopes one day soon to be able to free some others into the wild.

Gwendoline and Olivia — who can outpace their younger brother Pyrrhus, by the way — are tireless hunters, and rarely let their master down. "I think they're probably the finest in the whole country," said Mr. Arcione, stroking Gwendoline's plumage lovingly. "They only took about 20 days to train, but they're both naturals."

Together, falcons and master spend long hours out in the countryside, where their only neighbour is a solitary monk, who runs the stunningly poised 15th century Monastery of the Madonna Del Sorbo, from which Mr. Arcione's sanctuary takes its name.

Falconry, says Mr. Arcione, is the perfect symbiosis between man and bird: "It's definitely the highest level of relationship that can exist between a man and an animal. For that reason it's also the hardest to achieve. It's not like having a dog, which can relate to almost any human being. It's a far more complex animal. It's a relationship built on mutual respect," he added. "A falcon doesn't hunt with a man because it needs him to give him something to eat. He uses you, and you use him. It's a bond that is very close, but also very distant, and anyone who doesn't understand that will never make a falconer. I've known dozens who have tried, but they just didn't have it."

To be precise, falconry is a three-way partnership, because the dog also plays his role. It is he who acts as a "beater," flushing out game. "The falcon always hunts on the wing," explained Mr. Arcione. "It would never go for anything that was on the ground or sitting on the branch of a tree. The falcon is a perfect hunting machine. You never see an old falcon, because as soon as their muscles become weak and they can no longer hunt, they die of starvation. It's a form of natural selection."

The hunt itself is a complex game of precision timing and coordination between the three players. Once the prey has been sent up into the sky,

the falcon folds its wings and plummets down like an arrow to catch it at speeds up to 350 kilometres an hour. It kills its victim by stabbing it with the hind spur of its claw. The dog then retrieves the carcass and brings it back to the master.

"It's completely different from hunting with a gun, and a great deal more satisfying," said Mr. Arcione. "You have to understand the species, and then get to know and understand the individual of that species." Mr. Arcione believes he has now reached that stage with all the birds in his care at the sanctuary.

"I even know what they think," he said, only half-joking. "When I go into a wood, for instance, I can smell if there's an owl there in the trees somewhere. I spend hours and hours with these birds and I really know them very well. You have to if you want to build up any kind of trust and communication."

Mr. Arcione is lucky in that he has a family who understand his obsession and to some extent shares it. His two grown-up sons, Daniele and Federico have followed in his footsteps and both have pursued careers in the world of nature. Much of the family budget goes towards supporting his hobby, though the Italian state gives a grant to help pay for the cost of breeding the species in captivity. Mr. Arcione's birds have expensive tastes — mostly chicken and quail. "It costs a fortune," he said, clearly not begrudging a single cent of it.

Mr. Arcione is also fortunate in having a job that allows him to escape as often as possible to the place he thinks of as home. "I'm lucky that I've reached a level of seniority where I have a fair degree of autonomy, so no-one checks up on me too much," he said, as he hurriedly leapt back into the jeep, to drive back into town for a trade union appointment. Even so, Mr. Arcione was quick to refuse a gift from his colleagues, who organised a whip-round to buy him a portable telephone for his 50th birthday in December. "They thought it would be the perfect thing for me, as I'm always out and about and can never be found," he said. "But I was horrified and I gave it away. Can you imagine what would happen to my peace and quiet out here if everyone back at the office knew where to get hold of me?" — World News Link.

Art of imitation haute couture

By Claire Thierry

PARIS — Take a tourist and a charter flight. Organise a trip that will take her from scented oriental bazaars to colourful Arab souks and throw in a couple of street-vendors in an Asian market.

She will return, covered from head to foot in "designer" clothes: A Hermes scarf, a t-shirt with Chanel written on it, a safari-suit with an Yves Saint-Laurent label, a Dior belt, a Vuitton bag, Givenchy glasses and Gucci loafers. A real walking advertisement for all those famous brands.

Yet, the firms concerned could well do without it, as all these items are forgeries, imitations, copies. They are reproductions of haute couture clothes or accessories and famous brands for a tenth or a twentieth of the price.

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clandestine workshops in the countries where the famous brands are sold; following the line back, when a "naïve" customer takes an article back for repair; laying hands in a stock of copies, calling in the law and then having the stock seized and destroyed, preferably under the eyes of the camera to turn the matter into a media event.

Then there is legal recourse. Every year, several hundred court cases against fraudulent imitation are heard in France. Another way is to use diplomatic pressure. The representative professional organisations join forces with public organisations on the occasion of big international trade negotiations. They also bring the commercial representations of posts abroad into play.

The price of fame also includes baving ideas stolen. A line, a colour, a pattern or a striking detail will be reproduced at lower cost. This reproduction is very approximate and it will be tolerated so long as it is not a true copy and the brand is not mentioned.

So, one can find a Chanel-style suit (a big hit about fifteen years ago), a close-fitting stretch dress resembling a model from the Alia collection, a multicoloured

puff skirt reminding one of Lacroix.

Copying an image, rather than a product is the specialty of a district in the centre of Paris, near Les Halles, called "Le Sentier." In the mesh of busy streets, there is a plethora of sewing workshops which renew their models very quick and react at once to demand. It takes them two weeks to produce hundreds of copies of a successful model. Obviously, they are not very well made as they are intended for shoppers in chain stores or hypermarkets which sell cheaply to young customers who want to be in the swim.

But the big names in the clothing industry are not pleased by this competition and accuse these workshops of being successful because they use moonlighters or illegal immigrant workers. However, this system is like to come to a halt. Paris City Hall has plans to turn the whole area into a pedestrian zone and most of these small ready-to-wear manufacturers will be forced to close shop. But it should be remembered that, without "Le Sentier," some of today's famous fashion designers would never have had their first experience.

— *L'Actualité En France.*



Le Sentier Quarter in Paris where there is a plethora of sewing workshops.

Fashions

By Maha Addasi

DO you ever look through old family albums and wonder where the fashions came from? How could the lady in the picture be wearing that dress in public when it only comes one centimetre below the — in length. Did the woman ever sit down in that dress? Imagine wearing that today. Then you see the beach clothes and those are a different story. One piece swimming suites with attached skirts, how awful you think. People would laugh you out of town if you wore that today. Then there's the case of the shoes. They look like bricks that are strapped onto feet (I suspect they were actually used as weapons). And of course the charleston pants that look like twin tepees.

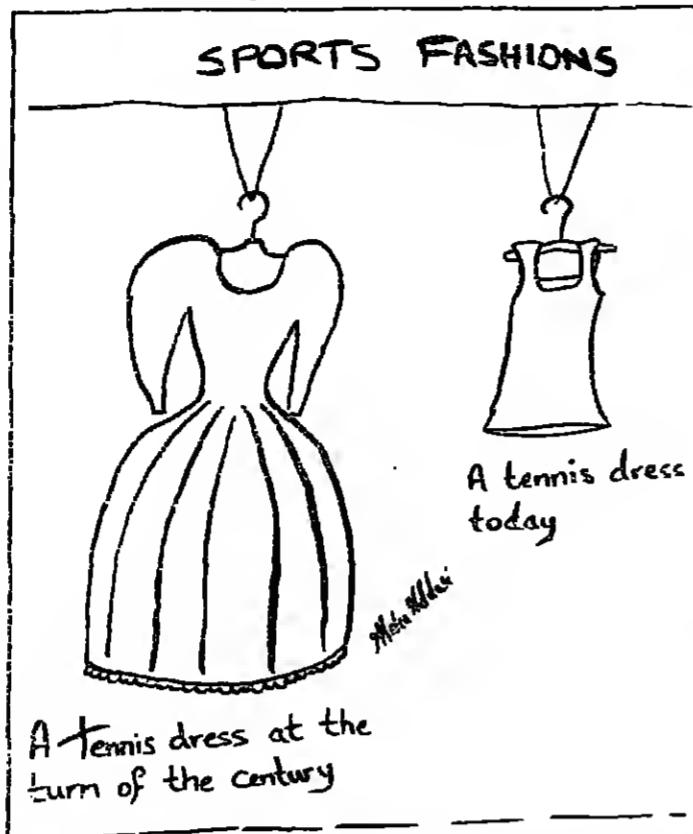
You may also have asked yourselves the question. Who on earth brought this or that fashion to the world?

"It's people who set the trend," one observer said. "They start the trend, and they continue it and they bring it abruptly to an end. Do you remember when fluorescent shirts were fashionable in the mid-80s? The minute one person wore a shirt with those glaring colours, the trend caught like wildfire. Now it is a faded memory with only your coloured photos to remind you," he said.

"My wife alone can start a trend," one objecting husband said. "The amount of money she spends on clothes is unreal. It is very possible that when my wife buys a shirt in all the colours and shades that exists in the store, she takes note of that, sends it to the manufacturer who makes even more such shirts. And before you know it, everyone, including myself is wearing this type of shirt," he said.

"What I have noticed about fashion is the way they creep on you slowly. You do not notice a major change today but ten years ago when my children were young, or I should say when they were too young to object, I used to dress them in the latest fashion. Bermuda shorts striped with the weirdest patterns. Today, my kids look at these pictures and laugh on and on about their garments," she said.

"I think I'm getting old," one lady said. "I used to think the clothes in the 80s are ridiculous when I looked at my pictures in the 70s. And the 70s clothes looked horrendous when I looked back in retrospect. Now in the 90s the 80s clothes look appealing, once again. I hate to think I'm



aging. I think that the fashions are coming back. They have come full circle. Actually I know that trends are being reincarnated. It's definitely not my imagination that the skirt hemlines are creeping up again," she said.

"When I was younger, I used to make sure was up-to-date with fashions. But it's so easy when you're male," one man said. "I don't care about that anymore. To tell you the truth, after the flaring trousers there was never such an exaggerated fashion trend for men. So if I want to be fashionable today, I could tear my jeans at the knees, and I know I would be dressed with the 'in' look," he said. That's good to know, but no cameras please.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

Thursday, Aug. 15

1834 — South Australia act is passed by Britain's parliament, allowing for establishment of colony there.

1906 — Britain and China sign convention on Tibet.

1914 — Japan issues ultimatum to Germany for evacuation of Kiau-Chou, Shantung, in north China; Panama canal is opened officially.

1918 — United States and Russia sever diplomatic relations.

1947 — Independence of India is proclaimed, partitioning India, with Pandit Nehru as premier of India and L. Ali Khan as premier of Pakistan.

1957 — Cheddi Jagan forms government in British Guiana following success of People's Progressive Party in elections.

1961 — East German workers begin to build Berlin Wall.

1962 — The Netherlands and Indonesia settle west New Guinea dispute.

1969 — Arab saboteurs blow up an oil pipeline in Israeli city of Haifa.

1974 — Wife of South Korea's President Park Chung-Hee is killed in Seoul by assassin's bullet evidently intended for her husband.

1986 — India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi warns that his country's progress and unity are threatened by rising sectarian violence.

1988 — State-run media reports in Moscow say guerrillas captured a provincial capital in Afghanistan and a district near Kabul as Soviet pullout reaches half-way mark.

1990 — Iraq offers to withdraw from Iranian territories and release prisoners of war; South Africa death toll in four days of black factional fighting hits 99.

Friday, Aug. 16

1717 — Army under Savoy's Prince Eugene defeats Turks at Belgrade, which he occupies.

1827 — Sultan of Turkey rejects note of Russia, France and Britain demanding truce in war with Greece.

1896 — British protectorate in Ashanti, West Africa, is proclaimed.

1953 — Attempted royalist coup begins in Persia.

1956 — First London conference to discuss Suez Canal is boycotted by Egypt's President Gamal Abdul Nasser.

1960 — Britain grants independence to crown colony of Cyprus, with Archbishop Makarios as president.

1962 — Agreement is

signed in London for Aden to enter Federation of South Arabia; Algeria is admitted to Arab League; Mont Blanc tunnel in Alps is completed as French and Italian workers meet under Western Europe's highest peak.

1964 — Major General Nguyen Khan takes over presidency of South Vietnam, ousting Major General Duong Van Minh.

1969 — Britain completes troop movement into Northern Ireland to help quell fighting between Roman Catholics and Protestants.

1972 — Morocco's King Hassan II escapes assassination attempt by Moroccan Air Force jets over Rabat.

1974 — Turkish invaders of Cyprus complete division of island into two areas and declare ceasefire.

1987 — Solidarity leader Lech Walesa says his outlawed labour movement is still alive and active.

1989 — Palestinian activists in Gaza Strip call for two-week boycott of jobs in Israel to protest computerised identity cards for day labourers.

1990 — Nine people hacked to death at train station in Soweto, South Africa; Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev restores citizenship of exiled writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

Saturday, Aug. 17

1510 — Pedro Navarro, having taken Algers and Tripoli for Spain, is killed in ambush in North Africa.

1577 — Peace of Bergerac ends sixth war of religion in France, whereby Huguenots secure important concessions for exercising their religion.

1743 — Peace of Abo between Russia and Sweden, which cedes South Finland to Russia as far as the Kumea River.

1759 — British fleet under Admiral Boscawen defeats French off Cape St. Vincent in West Indies.

1850 — Britain buys forts on Africa's gold coast from Denmark.

1879 — French Panama Canal company is formed under Ferdinand de Lesseps.

1912 — Britain sends note warning China against sending military expedition to Tibet.

1920 — Romania joins Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia in alliance which becomes Triple Entente.

1943 — Allied forces gain complete control in Sicily in World War II.

1945 — Dutch refuse to recognise independent In-

onesian Republic; Provisional French President Charles de Gaulle commutes death sentence of World War II collaborator Henri Philippe Petain to life imprisonment.

1968 — More than 100 women and children are killed when landslide sweeps two sightseeing buses into rain-swollen river on Honshu Island in Japan.

1973 — U.S. archeologists in Greece uncover evidence that man had gone to sea as early as 7500 B.C.

1977 — Democratic U.S. President Jimmy Carter's administration denounces as illegal Israel's decision to establish three new Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

1986 — Sudanese rebel group claims responsibility for shooting down Sudan Airways passenger plane in which all 60 people aboard perished.

1987 — British authorities say Rudolf Hess committed suicide by wrapping an electrical cord around his neck.

1990 — Soviet prime minister invites Alexander Solzhenitsyn to return to Soviet Union, but the famed author refuses pending withdrawal of expulsion order and treason charges against him.

1987 — Former Nazi deputy leader Rudolf Hess dies at age 93.

1988 — Pakistan's President Zia Ul-Haq and U.S. Ambassador Arnold Raphael are killed when their Pakistani military plane explodes.

1990 — Iraq announces policy of holding foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait as human shields against attack.

Sunday, Aug. 18

1527 — French forces take Pavia and Genoa in Italy.

1587 — Virginia Dare is born at Roanoke Island, North Carolina — first child born in America of English parents.

1649 — French court returns to Paris; Turkey's Sultan Ibrahim is deposed and assassinated, is succeeded by Mohammad IV.

1708 — British force takes Sardinia.

1812 — Russian forces are defeated at Smolensk, which is occupied by French.

1870 — Western Australia is granted representative government.

1896 — France annexes Madagascar whose external treaties with other states are annulled.

1914 — U.S. President Woodrow Wilson proclaims American neutrality in World War I; Germany declares war on Russia.

1920 — Britain and Egypt delegations confer on ways to provide for recognition of Egyptian independence.

1939 — Soviet Union and

Papua and New Guinea in.

1914 — British navy torpedoes and damages German battleship *Westfalen* in North Sea; German fleet bombs English coast.

1934 — German plebiscite approves vesting of sole executive power in Adolf Hitler as *fuehrer*.

1940 — Italian forces take British Somaliland from British forces in World War II.

1971 — General Duong Van Minh withdraws from presidential elections in South Vietnam, leaving President Nguyen Van Thieu unopposed.

1979 — Pope John Paul II makes major diplomatic gesture by calling for resumption of ties between Vatican and China's Roman Catholics.

1986 — Car bomb explodes during morning rush hour at main square in central Tehran, killing 20 people.

1987 — Suspected Kurdish guerrillas kill 25 people in Turkey.

1988 — Hundreds of United Nations observers deploy along Iran-Iraq war front on eve of a ceasefire, the first step toward ending nearly eight years of bloodshed.

1989 — India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi says his country must play bigger role in world affairs as superpowers shift to greater dialogue.

1990 — Soviet Union and

By The Associated Press

Delicate taste

By E. Yaghi

John Ray was a typical good American fellow who lived in an average American neighbourhood. He was always known as a nice guy even though he was quiet and thought to be sort of an introvert. He did well at his work and was liked by most of his associates. His house was positioned amidst sprawling lawns and oak trees. Although his home did need some repair work and lacked a new coat of paint, it really didn't look so bad.

Now, even though John Ray was quiet at work and thought to be a quiet neighbour, he did need his own circle of friends. He craved for someone to share with him his inner thoughts and feelings. For this companionship, he would go out of his way in search of a buddy. It didn't matter how far or what time of night or what kind of weather he had to endure, the important issue was to search for this special friend. One that he could identify with. Oh, he had lots of friends, but for some strange reason, they didn't last long. He often drove his cute little lavender car at a careful speed, down the freeway to another city looking for a comrade. "I sure hope I can find a friend soon! I'm so lonely! I'm not fussy about who I associate with as long as we understand each other." He would say as his sharp hawk eyes darted back and forth in hunt. "I'm not prejudiced like some people I know. They don't like foreigners or black people, but I don't mind. In fact, I prefer these people to others, for they always seem to have so much more to offer." He felt a growl in his stomach and pangs of hunger stab him. "Say, I'm getting hungry! I must think about getting a bite to eat! But, I can't eat restaurant food. It just doesn't agree with me. Nothing like a home cooked meal and someone to share it with. Hope I find a friend soon."

Well, more often than not, when he got in such a mood for a friend, he found one. Out of the kindness of his heart, he would then invite his new friend home for dinner. And what a fine dinner they had, after of course, stimulating conversation and the warmth of comradeship.

Days passed, Seasons came and went. The humid summer that was wet, fresh and green and loaded with pollen and cool summer nights, passed and made way for the orange, yellow and red leaves of autumn. Winter came all dressed in white with branches drooping to the ground burdened with piles of snow. John still looked for new friends and often found them. He always felt so good and satisfied when he made a new acquaintance. And, he was still thought to be a good neighbour, perhaps a little odd at that, but then, what American wasn't a little odd to say the least.

One day, when spring had just approached and blue birds were making their nests and preparing for new additions to their families, an inconsiderate neighbour complained about a bad smell coming from John Ray's house. Now, that wasn't really very neighbourly to file such a complaint, but that's what happened. But odors like seasons come and go and so no one really paid attention to the bad smell or the initial grievance that was issued, until, that is, the hot sticky days of summer approached and a

rotten odor finally made its way outdoors and the area surrounding John's house reeked of something decaying.

"What am I to do?" poor John asked himself. A body just can't keep to himself these days. I try to keep the place clean by myself, but I can't always do everything alone and it certainly wouldn't do if I had someone come and clean my house! Perhaps being a gourmet eater gets on people's nerves. They just aren't used to the idea of the magnificent aroma of home cooked wholesome meals!"

He opened his refrigerator and peeked at the three smiling heads that peered back at him. Oh, he so loved heads! But tonight he'd settle for a chop or two or perhaps some steak with onions. Ummmm, that sounded good. As soon as he ran out of food he would go out and hunt for more.

Right now he had some important guests staying with him. He had really enjoyed their company. When they first came, he fixed them a drink. Then he sat around with the two men he had invited over, and they chatted about this and that. A little dab of politics, and a little bit of local gossip and his friends were ready to settle down for a good night's sleep. Well, being the perfect host that he was, John would make sure that they slept very well and sound. Right now, they were at this very moment, laying on their beds in a deep eternal-like slumber. John tiptoed around so as not to wake them up. He was such a good host. He could teach so much to persons who didn't want to bother with their guests!

But one day, a taxi driver astounded America and came up with the crazy statement that John had a bunch of dead bodies stacked up in his house. The nerve! John was a gourmet eater and just had a lot of fresh meat in his refrigerator and here and there, but dead bodies, that was ridiculous! Well, the police did not listen to John. They simply refused to believe him. They invaded the privacy of his home and they found out that poor John was telling the truth in a morbid sort of way, for he did have meat piled up in his refrigerator. And he was a gourmet eater. And he did go out of his way to make a friend. So, what is the problem? What was the big deal? What a bunch of nosy neighbours he had! And just who was that stupid taxi driver who reported him in the first place?

Now poor John sits in an empty padded cell, charged up with murder. The evidence against him is rather gruesome, for it turned out that his preference for meat just so happened to be people and those three heads that peered back at him when he looked in his refrigerator were human heads! And those friends that he tried so hard to meet were the items on his menu and his supply of gourmet food. Impossible you say? Not quite. It really happened and just such a man as John Ray is now charged with the murder of 18 known victims. John is a cannibal. You know John, that nice quiet guy who lived down the street and never seemed to bother anybody or do anyone any harm. It is most doubtful that the prison John is in will cater to his special tastes, therefore, he might get very hungry waiting in prison for a decent people meal, but in the meantime, he could always practise his delicate taste on the guards or his fellow cell mates. Bon appetit, John!

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Aug. 15

8:30 The Family Man

Fire Break

Jack is considering quitting his job for the sake of his family but his conviction of the inevitability of his fate overrides his fears.

9:10 Outlaws

Potboiler

A famous writer accompanies the boys in their travels and adventures, to be able to write a good story about those outlaws.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie Of The Week

The Subterraneans

Starring: Leslie Caron and George Peppard

11:00 News in English

11:30 Night Court

An Old Flame

Old Judge Arnold takes over Judge Harold's seat briefly, and his efficiency in work surprises everyone, including Harold himself. But the world is full of surprises.

Raging Bull keeps up furious tempo

By Robert Shielton

LONDON — Internationally known movie actor "Raging Bull" Robert De Niro has no less than five feature films showing these days in West-end movie houses. Why is he in such a hurry?

During a recent interview, De Niro tried to explain how and why he works at such a pace. The first surprise is that, in contrast to the personalities that he portrays on the screen, De Niro is a quiet and gentle man, unassuming in well-worn sweater and casual slacks.

Does he appreciate the fact that some regard him as the greatest film actor of his generation? "It's nice to hear that," he replies with a half-smile, "but who can really say?" The half-Irish, half-Italian actor won his first Oscar, Hollywood's glittering tribute to its own, in 1972 for *Godfather II*, in which he played an up-and-coming mafia chieftain, Vito Corleone. In 1980 he won another Oscar, this time for his powerful film portrayal of the American boxer Jake La Motta in *Raging Bull*, produced by Irwin Winkler. Many believe that he should also have won Oscars for his role in *Goodfella*, another

mafia film with a humorous twist and a remarkable performance in *Awakenings*, a film based on the successful efforts of neurologist Oliver Sachs to treat comatose patients.

"I can't deny that I've been working very hard recently. That is a conscious decision on my part, at this stage of my life. I want to work a lot. Later on, it won't be that way." Pressed to explain, the actor continues: "I'm young and strong and can make the films I want to make. In a few years I'll slow down and focus on other things, like directing."

Is this flood of work typical of any actor's insecurity? "That's part of it," he concedes. "But I'm doing the things I want to do. I don't make movies that gross \$200 million, which leaves you worried if you can do it again. I'm not coming down from anything like that. I'm not sacrificing anything except leisure time from myself." De Niro recalled that when he was a young actor he spent a lot of time doing nothing. "In a way, I feel like I'm just making up for lost time. I'm happy doing what I am doing now," he said.

His latest roles are vastly

diverse. Was this on purpose? "That was part by design and part coincidence. I'm glad the roles were all so different. It justifies my making so many films." Seeing De Niro's relaxed, casual manner after viewing the explosive climax of *Guilty By Suspicion*, is startling. The actor has broken precedent with this film, doing what he can to promote it himself because he wants people to know how deeply sympathetic he is to David Merrill, an American film director who was blacklisted during the years when Senator Joseph McCarthy was chasing real and imagined Communists.

Irwin Winkler wrote and directed *Guilty By Suspicion*. In the film the pivotal issue is whether De Niro's character, Merrill, will save his career by naming other Hollywood figures who were either active in an American Communist network in the 1940s or else were liberals seduced by Stalin's form of government.

Said De Niro, "I was only a kid when this political blacklisting of the 1950s was occurring. I read Irwin Winkler's script, to give him some help, as a friend. If you were lucky enough to have been working

in films in that era, the blacklist could take away everything — your career and your life."

What would the actor have done in Merrill's shoes? "I just don't know. I would never be so presumptuous as to say that I would be a hero. Sam Wanamaker, who costars in the film, says that for those who faced the rather hysterical and publicity-seeking congressmen of that time, it was the moment of truth."

Do Hollywood people today talk about the dark old days of finger pointing, accusation and blacklisting for political ideas? "They didn't, but after *Guilty By Suspicion* they will talk about it. It was an ugly period of American history. Everybody says it won't happen again. If it does happen again, it would be with a new form and a new face. With racism and bigotry, it can always happen again," the actor said. But the democratic process has a way of rejecting different forms of tyranny, as it did with Senator McCarthy.

Guilty By Suspicion also shows how the moviemakers could become so absorbed in their work that they lost touch with their own families. Does he enjoy looking at his old movies? "No, I fall asleep. I only like to look at my own movies to see patterns I can improve. I have to wait 10 or 15 years to get a

A more visible passion is his partnership in the TribeCa Film Centre, located in Manhattan not far from New York's famous Chinatown. There, De Niro says he finds himself "greatly stimulated and inspired" by production assistants and film-school graduates. "It's a place where human contact makes things happen, where ideas catch fire, even in the corridors." De Niro may be an international name and an Oscar winner, but he keeps his roots close to the area where he was born.

Does he enjoy looking at his old movies? "No, I fall asleep. I only like to look at my own movies to see patterns I can improve. I have to wait 10 or 15 years to get a

better perspective."

What does he want to be remembered for? "I told my good friend, director Martin Scorsese, the other day that in 50 years' time I'd like to be remembered for making movies that were good, not just box-office successes. At the moment, I make what I feel are good movies. And if you are lucky enough to get paid well for that, and are

allowed to experiment ... well, what more can you ask?"

De Niro mentioned some present and future film projects. He has just finished filming *Cape Fear*, a remake of an old classic, he'll soon be seen in *Mad Dogs And Glory*, an action adventure.

He hopes to direct his first film, *Bronx Tale*, a quirky romance set in New York, in

a year or so.

The actor recently played a

less-than-major role in *Buck-draft*, an action film about

firefighters, quite obviously for the money. It's a movie I

didn't have to carry. It's a good script and a commercial movie. They paid me a lot of money, and I can put that towards other things I want to do," he concludes —

World News Link.

Two-time Oscar winner Robert De Niro (right) with Martin Scorsese in *Guilty By Suspicion*.

EM

New Arthur Miller play heads heavy London fall line-up

By Matt Wolf
The Associated Press

LONDON — The world premiere of Arthur Miller's latest drama heads an impressive line-up of new London shows this fall.

Miller's The Ride-Down Mt. Morgan, starring Tom Conti, opens Oct. 23 at Wyndham's theatre.

It's the first work by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Death Of A Salesman* and *All My Sons* to be premiered outside his native United States.

It's also the first play in five years for Miller, who will be 76 on Oct. 17.

The premiere dominates a busy fall after a summer season marked by a slump in tourists and lightweight fare such as *Sex Please. We're Italian*.

In a telephone interview from New York, Miller said he was pleased to be opening the play overseas.

"There's more of a theatre culture (in London)," said the playwright, whose "after the fall" and "the crucible" were seen in repertory last year at the Royal National Theatre. "It's also easier to get and keep actors of a certain caliber."

Miller in esteemed British company this fall, with new plays by Harold Pinter, Alan Ayckbourn, Alan Bennett, and John Osborne.

Pinter's *Party Time*, opening on Nov. 6 at the Almeida, has a running time of over an hour. That may seem eleventy to viewers of his last two plays, which ran a total of 28 minutes.

By contrast, Ayckbourn's *Comedies*, starring Griff Rhys Jones and Joanna Lumley, runs in two parts over 5½ hours. As a result, the black comedy, first seen two years ago at the Haymarket's home base in Scarborough, North Yorkshire, has two opening nights, Oct. 16 and 17.

It's the 37th play by Britain's most prolific contemporary dramatist.

Nov. 28 sees the National theatre bow of Alan Bennett's *The Madness Of George III*, directed by Nicholas Hytner (Miss Saigon). This is the first new play by Bennett since his *intelligible* 1988 *Single Ladies*, which cast Prunella Scales as Queen Elizabeth II. John Osborne's *Deja Vu*, on the West End in November at a theatre to be announced, continues the



Alan Alda plays in *Our Town*

story of Jinty Porter, the angry young renegade at the centre of Osborne's celebrated 1956 *Look Back In Anger*. Peter O'Toole will star.

Several other familiar Broadway names are resurfacing with new works.

Timberlake Wertenbaker, whose *Our County's Good* received six Tony nominations in June, returns to her familiar base, the Royal Court Theatre, with "three birds alighting in a field," opening on Sept. 10.

Hugh Whitemore, whose *Breaking The Code* and *Pack Of Lies* both ran on Broadway, has a new show, *It's Ralph*, opening on Oct. 28. Timothy West and Jack Shepherd head the cast.

Admirers of the classics are catered for in Sir Peter Hall's new production of Moliere's *Tartuffe*, opening on Oct. 22 at the Playhouse. Felicity Kendal and Paul Eddington co-star.

A revival of Jean Anouilh's *Becket*, opening on Oct. 3 at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, pairs two Tony-winning performers, Derek Jacobi (*Much Ado About Nothing*) as St. Thomas Becket and Robert Lindsay (*Me And My Girl*) as his adversary, King Henry II.

Thornton Wilder's much-loved play *Our Town* opens a limited engagement on Sept. 5 at the Shaftesbury Theatre. Alan Alda and Robert Sean Leonard (*Dead Poets Society*) make their British stage debuts in the production, directed by a third American, Robert Altman.

Perhaps the season's oddest show, *The Hunting Of The Snark*, opens on Oct. 24 at the Prince Edward Theatre. Based on the 1876 nonsense poem by Lewis Carroll, the £2 million (\$3.7 million) musical features music, lyrics, and book by Mike Batt, who is also credited as director and designer.

By Judith Matloff
Reuter

LISBON — Portuguese film makers are emerging from decades of obscurity to win critical acclaim at foreign festivals but at home the cinema queues are for Hollywood blockbusters.

Poor marketing, scant resources and a public hungry for action-packed American movies mean that the local art cinema has a sorry second place at the box office.

After finally winning freedom to express themselves with the fall of right-wing dictatorship in Portugal's 1974 revolution, independent film makers now must struggle for funds and an audience in one of Western Europe's poorest countries.

"The situation for art cinema in Portugal is grave. There are neither funds nor

means," said Director Joao Botelho in his small Lisbon office.

The walls are covered with posters of films like his 1989 *Tempo Difficil*, a bleak adoption of Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*, which most of Portugal's 10 million people never saw.

Portuguese movie-goers also largely ignored the most lavish film to date by veteran director Manoel De Oliveira, 83, *Non Ou A Gloria De Mandar* (*No Or The Visingory Of Command*).

The 1990 anti-war chronicle of Portugal's military defeats spanning several centuries to the Angolan colonial war won critical acclaim at Cannes but appeared only briefly in Lisbon.

A similar tale is told by Joao Cesar Monteiro, whose *Recordaços Da Casa Amarela* (*Memories Of The*

Yellow House) won the prestigious Silver Lion at Venice in 1989. The surrealistic narrative of an eccentric's encounters from a Lisbon boarding house to an asylum earned little following at home.

"Industrial means are necessary to establish Portuguese cinema," complained director Antonio Pedro Vasconcelos, who has been able to make only a handful of films over the past 20 years.

Portugal was once a country of film-goers and had a thriving national industry in the 1940s and 1950s which churned out escapist melodramas and musicals sanctioned by the dictatorship.

But by the time censorship began to ease in the 1960s to allow a new school of Portuguese cinema — contemplative, concerned with social issues and influenced by the

French new wave — money had begun to dry up.

And so increasingly has the public.

Competition from television and home videos mean less people are going to the cinema than ever, according to Manuel Falcao, the president of the Institute of Portuguese Cinema (IPC).

Over the past decade, ticket sales dropped to 12 million from 29 million and the number of cinemas fell to 93 from 291.

Some critics say Portuguese films have little commercial success because they're boring — heavy on shadows, history and symbolism and short on entertainment.

But by the time censorship began to ease in the 1960s to allow a new school of Portuguese cinema — contemplative, concerned with social issues and influenced by the

independent films seldom make it to the big commercial centres and major cinemas.

"We can't compete," Botelho said.

With such a small industry at home producers increasingly seek joint funding in Europe and actors must go abroad to make their names.

This was certainly the case for actor Joaquim D'Almeida, whose foreign credits include *Good Morning Babylon* and *Maria De Medeiros* who starred as the writer Anaïs Nin in last year's steamy film about Henry Miller *Henry And June*.

As they struggle to make ends meet they resentfully watch Hollywood converge on Portugal to take advantage of its cheap labour and sunshine — and then play to packed movie houses.

Portuguese crowds flock to see Lisbon's romantic cub

ble-stoned hills in the film version of John Le Carré's spy novel *The Russia House* starring Sean Connery and Michelle Pfeiffer.

Now there are excited rumours that Madonna is coming to *Madame* and Danish-born actress Brigitte Nielsen is setting up a production company in Portugal's Atlantic island of Madeira to make several films over the next year.

These multi-million-dollar productions provide more cash for actors and technicians but drive up costs for local directors working with shoe-string budgets of some £350,000.

"Perhaps the reason why no Portuguese director has done a film about the revolution is because we can't afford to pay the extras for the crowd scenes," grumbled one young screen-writer.

At 83, Grappelli is still the indefatigable virtuoso

By Paul Majendie
Reuter

DUBLIN — Fit as a fiddle. The phrase is tailor-made for Stephane Grappelli.

At the age of 83, the veteran jazz violinist laughs and wholeheartedly agrees.

"Thank God for my music. Without it, I would have popped off years ago," says the sprightly maestro who won fame with the gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt in the 1930s hot Club De France

quintet and is still packing them in 60 years later.

In the middle of an elegant Dublin restaurant he proudly unbuttons his shirt to reveal the heart pacemaker implanted just two months ago. "Look, you can hardly see it."

With a permanent twinkle in his eye, Grappelli exudes

enthusiasm and joie de vivre.

Dublin is the latest stop on a grueling concert schedule. Next come Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong and Singapore.

One of the greats of modern jazz freely admits he would be only too happy to die smiling with a violin in his hand.

What then? Tucking with relish into his grilled beef and sipping his chablis appreciatively, he burst merrily into song with an old French ditty — "bury me in a cellar full of good wine, tralala, tralala."

Born in Paris, Grappelli was 11 when his father gave him a violin. He also learnt the piano and studied briefly at the Paris Conservatoire.

But he was out earning by the age of 14, playing the piano accompanying silent films in a Paris cinema six hours a day.

For four years he played

the piano with the Gregor and the Gregorians showband. He switched to the violin after Gregor heard him playing one night.

He met Django Reinhardt in a Montparnasse club in 1931, the pair formed the hot Club de France, with a violin, three guitars and a string bass, and they shot to fame.

World War II broke up the partnership with Grappelli in London, recuperating after an operation. Reunited after the war, they played together until Reinhardt's death in 1953.

Grappelli never stood still, constantly experimenting by playing with others. He and Sir Yehudi Menuhin made six albums together. He played with violinist Nigel Kennedy and cellist Julian Lloyd Webber.

His memory is not always

that encyclopaedic as he has discovered grapping with dates for an authorised biography.

"I cannot remember when things happened. It comes to me little by little."

But that doesn't quench the fire. After a good lunch, it's back to the hotel for a quick siesta, then up to check over the next batch of recollections before meeting a nine-year-old violin prodigy. "It's the young that keep me young."

In the evening there is a full house for his performance at

Genetic traits protect some against rapid AIDS decline

By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

BAR HARBOR, Maine — A genetic pattern associated with reduced susceptibility to AIDS has been discovered in men who remain healthy at least five years after being infected, researchers have said.

The discovery could improve AIDS treatment by allowing doctors to make better predictions about patients' outcomes, said the leader of the research team. Mary-Claire King of the University of California, Berkeley.

The pattern was found in the so-called HLA genes. These genes are responsible for the rejection of transplanted organs, and help the body fight disease.

"There are some forms of these genes that are relatively

protective," Ms. King said at a meeting of geneticists at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor. "Men who have them do better. Those who don't go downhill quickly."

She said there is "tremendous variation in how rapidly the disease progresses."

"This may be very exciting," said Dr. Arno Motulsky, a geneticist at the University of Washington in Seattle. Dr. Motulsky said studies of genetic susceptibility to AIDS are critically important and have been relatively neglected.

He noted, however, that other genetic factors besides the HLA genes are likely to affect susceptibility to AIDS. "This will not explain all of AIDS," he said.

The genetic pattern found by Ms. King, for example, does not explain why some

people might be more likely than others to become infected with the AIDS virus. It is related only to patients' outcomes once they have been infected.

Ms. King said although she has found genetic "signposts" that point to patients who are less susceptible to the virus, she has not determined precisely which genes are responsible for that reduced susceptibility.

When that is done, researchers might be able to determine exactly how some people are able to partially resist the virus.

That could occur in the next six to 12 months, she said. Ms. King said she is also looking for genetic patterns that might explain why only one-third of babies born to mothers with AIDS become infected.

The finding represents the

first time that researchers have found a genetic pattern related to reduced susceptibility to AIDS. Ms. King said. Previous studies have found less precise associations between susceptibility and immune-system proteins, not genes, she said.

Ms. King and her colleagues, Leslie G. Louie and Beth Newman, searched all possible immune-system genes that might be associated with resistance to AIDS.

They were looking for any differences between patients who fared relatively well after AIDS infection and those who fared poorly.

"Among all those different molecules, the ones that so far give the clearest result are the HLA Class 2 genes," she said.

The studies were done on gay men in San Francisco

Bush's drug office accused of ignoring drugs-AIDS link

By Therese Poletti
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government's AIDS commission said recently that nearly a third of all U.S. AIDS cases are now related to intravenous drug use and accused President George Bush's drug policy office of virtually ignoring the link between AIDS and drugs.

The national commission on AIDS said the drug control office had neglected to take steps to slow the spread of AIDS among people who cannot stop using drugs.

In a report, it said 32 per cent of U.S. AIDS cases could be traced to sharing of needles, unsafe sex under the influence of drugs or sex with an infected drug user.

"Despite this insidious and indisputable link between substance (drug) use and

HIV infection, the office of National Drug Control Policy continues to virtually ignore it," the report said. HIV is the name of the virus that causes AIDS.

The report recommended that needles and other drug injecting equipment be legalised, saying restrictions on buying them encouraged sharing of needles — a deadly AIDS risk — but did little to reduce drug use.

The report said the drug policy office, headed by Republican Party politician Bob Martinez, continued to "neglect the real public health and treatment measures which could and must be taken to halt the spread."

The drug policy office's deputy director, Dr. Herbert Kleber, criticised the report.

"We feel that it distorts the administration's position on expanding and improving

drug treatment," he said. "In the two years that (the drug policy office) has existed the national drug treatment budget almost doubled."

The AIDS commission's recommendations to Congress and the White House included:

— Remove legal barriers to the purchase and possession of injection equipment ... so that the transmission of HIV can be lessened for those who cannot stop injecting drugs.

— Expand drug abuse treatment so that anyone who applies for treatment can be accepted into treatment programmes.

— Expand research on the relationships between illegal drug use and HIV transmission.

— Mount a serious and sustained attack on the social problems that promote drug

use in the United States. Acquired immune deficiency syndrome attacks the body's defences against disease. It is usually spread sex, contaminated drug needles and contaminated blood transfusions.

Anti-AIDS campaign welcomed the report.

"It's a good report," said Jeff Levi, director of government affairs at the AID action council. "The time have lost in property adding and providing treatment for drug users has condemned literally tens of thousands of people to death through HIV transmission."

The AIDS commission was created to advise Congress and the White House on a developing policy on the epidemic. Congress appointed 10 voting members and 10 presidential names two.

How sane is Britain's mental health act?

By Patricia Reaney
Reuter

LONDON — More than 300 women are locked up in Britain's special hospitals — formerly asylums for the criminally insane — but experts say many of them shouldn't be there.

Most were sent to the institutions under a controversial law that doctors and patients say is unjust and should be changed.

Studies have shown that some 48 per cent of women in the country's three special hospitals are categorised as suffering from "psychopathic disorder" as opposed to only 24 per cent of men.

"Women are more likely to be sent to a special hospital than men. When they transgress social norms they are seen to be more abnormal than a man," said Dr. Chandra Gosh, a consultant psychiatrist at the maximum-security Broadmoor Hospital.

Terri Simpson was sent to Broadmoor for more than three years after starting a fire in a shop doorway. No one was hurt but she was charged with arson and criminal damage and categorised as "psychopathic disorder" under the 1983 Mental Health Act.

"I have never gone out to deliberately hurt someone by striking a match. It was a cry for help but the courts don't see it like that. I asked for help to get my act together but I didn't expect Broadmoor," Ms. Simpson said.

Until recently the plight of the women has received little public attention, but a charity called WISH (Women In Special Hospitals and Secure Psychiatric Units) is hoping to change that.

WISH was launched in 1990 to improve the conditions of women in special hospitals, regional secure units and prison psychiatric units.

"Women tend to be invisible in work, research and media coverage of special hospitals," said Nancy Biggs, a solicitor and chairman of WISH's Management Committee.

The group is trying to provide personal support for female patients, to improve living conditions and to advise women of their rights. It is also questioning the use of "psychopathic disorder" in the Mental Health Act.

"We're unhappy with the current use of the definition. Psychopathic disorder needs to be looked at and changed and probably taken out (of the act)," Mr. Biggs said.

"There is no doubt that women deteriorate as a result of the conditions (in special hospitals)," she added.

Ms. Gosh is "cautiously optimistic" that the system will be changed and Ms. Simpson, a founding member of WISH, hopes her experience in Broadmoor can help other women.

"An awful lot of women don't need to be there," she said.

Brain researchers defend need to work on live animals

By Christine Tierney
Reuter

MONTREAL — Brain researchers have strongly defended their need to experiment on live animals in order to discover cures for Alzheimer's, epilepsy and other brain diseases.

Fearful that the animal rights movement could stall progress in their field, leading neurologists argued at the international brain research organisations convention in this Canadian city that sci-

tists must work to recapture public support.

"The public is seriously misinformed about this issue," said Colin Blakemore, a neurologist at Oxford University who said he stopped hoping the animal rights outcry would just fade away when his family received threats from extremists.

He said a recent poll taken in Britain showed 56 per cent favoured a total ban on tests on animals. The figure rose to 72 per cent among people

24 years and younger.

Animal rights proponents have won many supporters by arguing that scientists can obtain the same results using computer models or by experimenting on tissues and cells.

"You can study certain aspects of a disease with experiments on tissue cultures, but you can't skip from tissue tests or computer models to humans," said Dr. Vincent Castellucci at Montreal's Clinical Research Institute.

"Practically all the drugs

we use have been tested on live animals to see not only the impact on the animal's entire system, but also to see if there are side-effects," he said.

"I don't think scientists would use animals if they could use an alternative," added Wolf Singer from the Max Planck Institute in Frankfurt. "Alternatives are easier, cheaper and more reliable."

Some of the research discussed at the organisation's

week-long gathering involves painful experiments on monkeys, rats and mice which would make grisly television footage.

Images of animals writhing in pain have been used by animal rights activists in some countries to push through near-total bans on animal experiments.

Although "most of us know we do not wrong," as Mr. Blakemore put it, he urged scientists to become more aggressive in defending

their work, particularly through the media.

Richard Van Sluyters of the University of California at Berkeley, who was targeted by animal rights activists, told researchers their best defence lies in simultaneously complying with regulations on animal testing.

"Don't cut corners to reduce your paperwork. Every I, cross every T," said in a presentation titled "Advice to those who come under attack."

Every second German woman is overweight

By Hans Wullenweber

ONE GERMAN woman in two is overweight, says Federal Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber, quoting the findings of a nationwide survey of eating habits. The survey, and an analysis of risk factors, cost the Ministry DM15 million.

The special hospitals service authority, which runs the institutions, was not available for comment, but officials have publicly admitted that there are faults in the system.

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eat too much, and too much fat.

Initial results indicate that 47 per cent of women and 38 per cent of men are overweight. Yet women were found to be much better informed about a healthy diet than men.

That said, the survey found there were more corpulent German women than men. It also noted a dangerous trend, especially among young women. Every other woman aged 15 to 25 eats too few

calories and too many sweets. If the findings are right, four million Germans endanger their health by bad eating habits. Over 11,000 of the volunteers tested agreed to take part in blood and urine tests. In some cases their blood sugar and fat ratings were most alarming.

The solution to this threat is to change one's eating habits, but the people in question must also get more exercise and cut down on their alcohol and tobacco

consumption.

The experts who compiled the survey suggest dietary changes of the "more of this" and "less of that" kind. The average German's daily intake is 243 grammes of alcoholic drinks, 100 grammes of lemonade, 56 grammes of biscuits and 31 grammes of sweetstuffs. They would do better to consume 500 grammes of milk and dairy products a day, but their actual intake is only 184 grammes. They only consume 152

grammes of vegetables a day too, as against the 250 grammes that would be best for them. The ideal daily intake of potatoes or rice is said to be 250 grammes, yet surprisingly, perhaps, Germans only consume 172 grammes a day.

Herr Riesenhuber's specialists have good news for bakers and bad news for butchers. Germans eat 160 grammes of bread a day and 60 would be much better, experts say, to cut back the daily intake from 160 to 150 grammes.

People are overfed sausage and high-fat cheese in particular, eating 160 grammes a day when a mere 60 would be much better, experts say. They only consume 152

grammes a day, would be good too.

Sausage, meat and fish by no means taboo, but Germans would do better, experts say, to cut back the daily intake from 160 to 150 grammes.

People are overfed sausage and high-fat cheese in particular, eating 160 grammes a day when a mere 60 would be much better, experts say. They only consume 152

By Petra Fluwatsch

VERA K. can well remember her first visit to the Cologne self-help group for people in emotional distress four years ago. "When the rules were read out at the start of the session and everyone shook hands," she says, "among ordinary, active people, I suddenly felt I was no longer at the mercy of sheer hell."

She had just undergone cancer surgery that had deprived her of all pleasure in life. "There I sat," she says, "among ordinary, active people, and it gave me fresh strength."

"It is simply a relief to see so many people with the same complaint," says Renate Gade, a regular member of the Morbus Crohn/Colitis ulcerosa self-help group for eight years.

Every other Thursday she and about 30 fellow-sufferers from chronic enteritis meet in Cologne for group discussions. They then go out for a beer, a sociable end to an evening that consoles her when she is feeling bad and gives her the warm feeling of not being on her own with an incurable complaint.

About 30 per cent of Germans in the Federal Republic of old feel the need to exchange views with others in a similar position, be it intestinal trouble, difficulties with

breast-feeding, marital problems, fear of too much love or fear of too little.

Since the mid-1970s group sessions with fellow-sufferers have been unprecedentedly popular. An estimated 50,000 self-help groups now tackle problems, addiction, compulsion, suffering and failings of all kinds.

Physical ailments particularly tend to make people feel the need to meet as a group. About 60 per cent of self-helpers have health problems or suffer from chronic complaints.

The other 40 per cent are concerned with social issues and problems such as the day-to-day worries of single parents, grief for a partner who has died or the anxiety of a father-to-be.

In many cities they can hope to find "understanding, an exchange of views and experiences and to be caught in a social safety net" by insiders who are often the first people they have been able to tell just how awful they feel. "You need people who understand you when you tell them you've emptied the refrigerator yet again," says Monika Haug, founder of a Cologne biliuria group.

For years people told her after her bouts of uninhibited eating that she ought to be happy she was in a position to eat so well.

"In the group," she says, "you at long last have the feeling that you and your problems are acknowledged and taken seriously." At her weekly meetings "everything comes on the table that is important for the individual."

In cases of serious mental upset she supplies the names and addresses of doctors and has been known to accompany

patients' emotional well-being.

Gone are the days when spokespeople on their own behalf were viewed with uniform mistrust by specialists, as a "wild bunch of patients who have no idea about anything."

A growing number of doctors, says Birgit Sadowski of the Hamburg KISS, which has been in existence for longer than any other referral agency of its kind in Germany, are referring problem cases to self-help groups to help them regain mental and emotional strength.

"If a self-help group is set up in time," she feels, "the health insurance will later not need to foot the bill for therapy."

Fears of contact are steadily declining and self-help groups are increasingly seen as an optimisation and complementary arrangement," says an optimistic spokesperson for the North Rhine Medical Association in Cologne.

Last year it circularised members in the city to draw their attention to a cooperation centre for doctors and self-help groups launched in Autumn 1990 and modelled on similar centres in Frankfurt and

Jordan National Committee to be formed for promotion of culture during next decade

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Swimmers break 5 records at Jordan Swimming Championships

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Swimming is fast becoming a popular sport in Jordan. This became apparent in the latest swimming championships held over a period of 7 days at the Crown Hotel and Al Hussein Youth City swimming pools.

"It is the first time that more than 200 swimmers representing different age groups participated in a competition," said Khamis Ghait, head coach of the Jordanian national swimming team and the Orthodox Club swimming team.

Swimmers from Al Hussein Youth City, the Orthodox Club, the Ahli Club and the Crown Club took part in the Jordanian Swimming Clubs Championship organised by the Jordan Swimming Federation (JSF).

This championship was the first of its kind with regard to the number of participants and the way it was organised. Swimmers of different age groups were awarded points according to their results, the accumulated points represented the standings of each team. The Orthodox Club led the team standings with 742 points, followed by Al Hussein Youth City with 530 points; Al Ahli came in third with 519 points, followed by the Crown team with 171 points.

Five Jordanian records were broken during the championship: The women's 100 and 200 metres

breaststroke by women's champion Lara Demirjian, the men's 200m breaststroke by Ali Al Wazani, the 100m backstroke by Yousef Al Zarou and the 400m freestyle by Amer Al Wazani.

According to officials and swimmers the latest championship and the Jordan Open Swimming Championship held earlier this month clearly proved that our best swimmers could do better and the youngsters have the potential if they are well taken care of.

In the Open Championship six Jordanian records were broken. Three by Demirjian (Orthodox Club) and three by the Wazani brothers (Al Hussein Youth City).

The national team was supposed to participate in the Arab Swimming Championships in Syria, but swimming events for short distances were cancelled.

"We would have had the chance to break new records and we needed the chance to see how well our swimmers would perform in a tight competition," commented coach Khamis Ghait.

Men's champion Ali Al Wazani who holds five Jordanian records, the 100m breaststroke at 1.14.29, the 200m breaststroke at 2.44.06, the 200m individual medley at 2.28.80, the 400m medley at 5.51.29, and the 200m butterfly at 2.43.54, said "lack of competitiveness affects our performance."



Lara Demirjian

On Monday Ali broke his 200m breaststroke record with a time of 2.42.03.

He said: "It is natural that you are motivated to swim better in a close competition. Because we don't often have that, some records stay unbroken for some time. With serious practice and competition," Wazani added. "I believe I can do much better."

Demirjian holds seven Jordanian records — The 100m breaststroke at 1.27.99, the 200m breaststroke at 1.14.29, the 200m individual medley at 2.04.19, the 400m medley at 6.41.74, the 400m freestyle at 20.34.13. Amer broke the 400m freestyle with a time of 4.58.41 compared to the previous 5.5.20.

On Monday Demirjian broke her 100m breaststroke record with a new time of 3.10.63.

Like Wazani, Demirjian agrees that more practice and competitions abroad are extremely valuable in evaluating our swimmers. She last participated abroad in the Saddam International Championship in Baghdad in 1988 where she was chosen best swimmer.

Demirjian said: "You can't expect swimmers to be enthusiastic when you're swimming and the next swimmer is very far behind."

"If we want more swimmers at a competitive level in the future, swimming should be introduced at an early age," Demirjian said. "For example, youngsters who took part in the summer swimming camp at the Orthodox Club did better than expected in the latest championship."

Wazani, who holds four Jordanian records in the 100m and 200m freestyle, the 100m backstroke and the 100m butterfly, said the national team should be provided with a modern Olympic-size pool "preferably with electronic timers."

Zarou broke his previous 100m backstroke record of 1.11.33 by a time of 1.10.57 Tuesday.

Other swimmers who participated in the tournament were Amer Al Wazani who holds the record for the 1,500m freestyle at 20.34.13. Amer broke the 400m freestyle with a time of 4.58.41 compared to the previous 5.5.20. Among swimmers who came in



Ali Al Wazani

first were Talal Al Shawa, in the men's 50m freestyle; Salim Skaf, in the 4x100 relay; Jassat Anz, in the 100m butterfly and Roula Abdul Hamid in the 100m, 200m and 400m freestyle. In the 16-year-olds group Yanal Bishe and Laila Khouri also came in first.

Promising beginners include Tarek Khouri, Samer Nassar, Sandra Mismar, Omar Dallal, Ma'da B'dour, Roula Kattan, Al'a Al Wazani, Omar Abassi and Nour Khalil.

Coach Ghait said the next step will be "an evaluation of

swimmers according to their results in the past month in order to regroup the national team."

"We might have a tournament with the Iraqi men's team in early September," coach Ghait said.

"With the encouragement and attention of the Ministry of Youth, the Swimming Federation, the serious training, as well as the enthusiasm and determination of our swimmers will certainly pay off. The important thing is the continued attention, practice and competition, I'm sure we can do a lot better," Ghait added.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Courier stops Pugh in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — French Open champion Jim Courier lost only seven points on his serve after being broken in the opening game and defeated U.S. Davis Cup teammate Jim Pugh 6-4, 6-4 Tuesday night in the second round of the U.S. Hardcourt Tennis Tournament. "I started a little bit slow, but I got going when I needed to," said Courier, seeded second behind defending champion Boris Becker in the event at the Indianapolis Sports Centre. "I thought I played pretty well in the beginning. I let up in the first set," said Pugh, who jumped to a 2-0 advantage in the opening set only to be caught when he was broken in the eighth game. The two held serve in the second set before Courier won the match's final game with two forehand passing shots.

Seles defeats Reinach in Los Angeles

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AP) — Top-seeded Monica Seles needed only 44 minutes to defeat Elna Reinach 6-1, 6-0 in a second-round match of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles tournament. Reinach won the second game of the first set when she held serve. Each set lasted only 22 minutes. Seles appeared to be having an extended practice session, trying out forehands and backhands with one hand when she usually hits with two. "I've been practicing with one-handed shots," Seles said. "I did that so I could cover the court better. I started to relax and I focused on trying to finish the match as soon as possible. "I only practiced for half an hour before the match." Kimiko Date of Japan scored a 6-4, 6-1 victory over fifth-seeded Leila Meskhi of the Soviet Union in an earlier second-round match.

Moreno wins cycling medal in Stuttgart

STUTTGART (R) — Young Spaniard Jose-Manuel Moreno caused an upset Tuesday by winning the first gold medal of the world cycling championships in the men's amateur one kilometre time trial event. The 22-year-old outpaced the field to win his first world title in one minute 3.827 seconds as Soviet defending champion and pre-race favourite Alexander Kirichenko finished back in a surprising fifth place.

U.S. wins soccer gold at Pan Am Games

HAVANA (AP) — The United States won a very special gold in soccer and narrowed the gap with Cuba with four easy goals in the pool at the Pan American Games.

In perhaps the biggest soccer victory in U.S. history, the Americans — many of whom figure to represent the country in the Barcelona Olympics — edged Mexico 2-1 in overtime. Joe-Max Moore scored on a superb free kick and Goa le Brad Friedel made three spectacular saves to preserve the lead.

"This is a very big accomplishment for the U.S.," said Moore. "We haven't done well soccer-wise in the Pan American Games. This shows a few people we have come along a little, that we've got a lot of talent and in the future, we will be even better."

The United States will be host to the World Cup in 1994, and this first Pan Am gold was further evidence that U.S. soccer players are able to compete on the international scene.

"We are holding our own with anybody," coach Lothar Osiander said.

On land and in the water, speed runs in Dorsey Tierney's family.

The cousin of former Indy 500 champion Danny Sullivan, Tierney shattered the Pan Am record in the women's 200-metre breaststroke twice Tuesday as U.S. swimmers captured four more

goals and three silvers.

Meanwhile, three athletes, including a Mexican rower who won a gold medal, tested positive for banned drugs.

José Antonio Gomez, who won a gold in double sculls, and Canadian shot putter Georgette Reed, who did not place, were the only athletes identified by Pan American Sports Organisation President Mario Vasquez Rana, a native of Mexico. Both used banned cold medicines.

"The third positive test was found today, but we only have the number of the sample and not the name of the athlete," Vasquez Rana said at a news conference Tuesday night. "The name will be announced Thursday."

"It hurts to make this kind of announcement," Vasquez Rana added. "But I must insist that none of these athletes have taken stimulants to improve their performance. We can assure that Paso is free from stimulants and heavy drugs, marijuana and cocaine."

Several thousand fans at the water polo pool sang "Happy Birthday" to Fidel Castro in Spanish when he arrived Tuesday night, and the Brazilian team, winners of the bronze, later sang it again to him in Portuguese. Cuba won the gold medal and the United States the silver.

After the 11th day of competition, the United States closed Cuba's gold-medal lead to 116-109 while pulling farther ahead in overall medals 287-230.

The only race American swimmers haven't won among 10 in two days of competition was the men's 100 butterfly, the specialty of Olympic champion Anthony Nesty of Surinam.

U.S. fighters were 1-1 Tuesday, leaving only six of the 12 fighters in the semifinals. Michael Demoss won at 165 pounds, but Patrick Byrd lost at 147.

In men's softball, Canada beat the United States 3-1 to win the gold medal.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY AUGUST 16, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
GENERAL TENDENCIES: Discontent can put you behind the eight-ball if you let your companions see that you have little consideration for them and try to break up an existing alliance or condon-

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY AUGUST 15, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation
are you able to get others to go along with any plans you may have.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is your time to do what will please a shut-in whether physically or mentally so get your charitable tendencies working and be kind and gentle.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Whatever you want to do when a good friend is concerned requires you to put yourself in his position and first do what delights him before asking for help.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You certainly want to get after that outside interest and quickly get it in back of you if it isn't that simple to make a point to bandle it carefully.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) This is the time to look for some new pleasure that also can bring you more awareness of how you can impress the one that can help you.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Look into the various things you have promised to do and try to add something colourful to make them more pleasing to others.

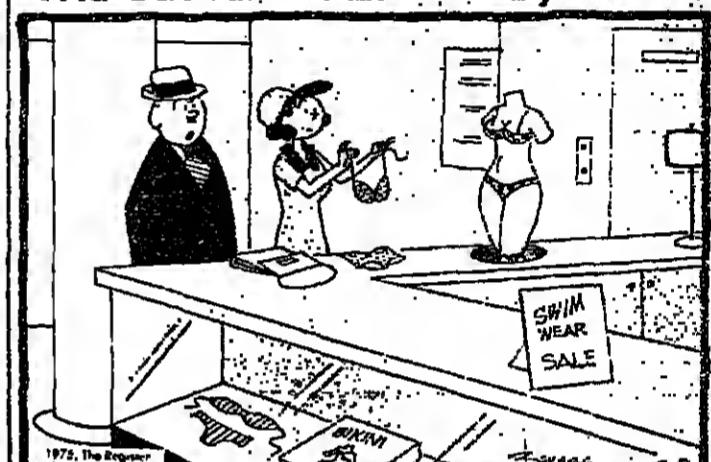
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Look to partners for the answers to how to make your alliance more effective and operative and you find then that you will be more a part of any new project they have.

Your birth stone = Security

World Resources-Dajani & Co. Inc.

Amman-Rio De Janeiro
Jewellers Corp.

THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLING WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles: one letter to each square, 10 letters.

four ordinary words.

OSHUE

OSHUE

White Paper sets the record straight on Jordan's Gulf position

'From the beginning... Jordan made clear that it did not accept acquisition of territory by force'

Earlier this month, on the first anniversary of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the government of Jordan issued a White Paper containing an analytical exposition of records, events and decisions that shaped Jordan's position on the Gulf crisis and efforts to first avert and later solve it on the basis of international legitimacy and Arab cooperation. The paper includes a number of important documents from official and public sources, among which is a letter hitherto unpublished from His Majesty the King to President Saddam Hussein dated Sept. 22 (see box). Following is the full text of the introduction to the White Paper, which outlines and explains Jordanian policies on the crisis and the war that followed (documents referred to in the text have mostly been published in the Jordan Times earlier or can be found in the booklet which is available at the Ministry of Information):

THE object of this White Paper is to describe the policies of the Government of Jordan during the various stages of the Gulf crisis between the summer of 1990 and early 1991, with related documentation from official and public sources. Over many years and particularly during this period, the Jordanian leadership made great efforts to prevent the deterioration of relations between Iraq and Kuwait and to encourage the amicable resolution of problems between them; it continued these efforts within the context of the new situation created by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in order to contain the crisis, reversing the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq and resolving all the causes of the eruption peacefully through Arab mediation.

When these efforts failed, Jordan continued to take initiatives to convince the members of the United Nations to pursue diplomatic measures to solve the crisis, and to avoid decisions which would lead to military confrontation. When these initiatives also failed, Jordan strove to avert hostilities before widespread and perhaps irreparable damage could be done to the political, social, human and ecological environment of the region.

At this time when Jordan is exerting efforts to repair the damage done to inter-Arab relationships by the crisis, and to remove misunderstandings and sources of friction which may have temporarily clouded some of her traditional friendships, the intent of this Paper is not to re-open wounds or to cast blame on one party or another for decisions taken in the past, but rather to clarify, once and for all, the realities and the motivation behind Jordan's policies towards the conflict between Iraq and Kuwait, and towards the international developments to which that conflict gave rise.

It is the belief of the Jordanian leadership that the restoration of fraternal relations between members of the Arab community, and of Jordan's relations with all members of the international community, depends not on trying to deny or forget that there were opposing points of view and conflicting policies, but rather on an honest and factually-exact record of events and decisions in order that mistakes or misjudgments may be clearly recognised, and hopefully avoided in the future.

With Iraq's perception of a threat of external intervention and an intransigent mood in Kuwait, a meeting between the representatives of both sides, held in Jeddah on July 31, was doomed to failure. Even so, the Iraqi army's invasion of Kuwait in the early hours of the morning of Aug. 2 took the Government of Jordan by surprise. His Majesty was informed that the invasion had taken place at exactly 5:50 a.m. through a telephone call from His Majesty King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, who requested that President Saddam should be urged to limit his invasion to the extent of the disputed boundaries between Iraq and Kuwait until the whole dispute could be resolved peacefully. When asked by King Hussein about where the Iraqi forces were, he was shocked to learn that they were approximately six kilometres from Kuwait city and still moving in Iraq's borders and airspace were closed and all attempts to telephone the Iraqi president failed until he returned His Majesty's calls just after midday on Aug. 2. His Majesty was informed that in response to a measured approach from Arab governments — and not to threats, provocation, or condemnation — Iraqi forces (by now essentially in occupation of all of Kuwait) would begin to withdraw from Kuwait within days and complete their withdrawal within weeks.

Shortly after this telephone conversation and on that same day, Aug. 2, His Majesty flew to Alexandria to meet with President Mubarak who urged him to visit Baghdad as soon as possible, a request that was endorsed by His Majesty King Fahd. The Jordanian and Egyptian heads of state also spoke with U.S. President George Bush who considered the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as totally unacceptable and who voiced concern for the lives and well-being of foreigners caught in the middle of this crisis. His Majesty informed the American president that he believed he needed 48 hours during which he could travel to Iraq to get specific commitments from President Saddam for an Iraqi withdrawal under the terms of an Arab solution, within the context of the original telephone conversation. His Majesty had made with him.

It was agreed between His Majesty and President Mubarak that the Arab League should defer issuing a condemnation of Iraq pending the success of the efforts of His Majesty's mission to Baghdad to find out the Iraqi position on two proposals: namely, a commitment by the Iraqi government to withdraw from Kuwait as soon as possible, and an agreement from Iraq to attend a mini-Arab summit in Jeddah to discuss and settle all facets of the

Iraq-Kuwait dispute.

These proposals were enthusiastically endorsed by President Mubarak, who had the Jordanian foreign minister flown to Cairo in his presidential G4 jet to cooperate with the Egyptian foreign minister during the meeting of Arab foreign ministers, already in session in Cairo, with the aim of restraining the impatience of the foreign ministers of the Gulf states to condemn Iraq.

On the following morning of Aug. 3, King Hussein flew to Baghdad, having broken his journey for only a few hours in Amman, and secured President Saddam's agreement to a solution of the crisis within the Arab

same day, declare its intention to begin withdrawing its forces from Kuwait at 7 p.m. on Aug. 5.

At the same time that His Majesty was discussing the proposals jointly agreed upon between himself and President Mubarak, the Egyptian government issued a statement condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Upon his return to Amman, His Majesty called President Mubarak to inform him of the agreement he had reached with President Saddam Hussein, and to express his regret at the Egyptian statement. President Mubarak's explanation to His Majesty was that he was under great pressure; and that he had

Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qassem, had warned of the dangers of adopting the resolution at a time when efforts were being made by His Majesty and other Arab leaders to pave the way for a mini-summit and to contain the crisis. None the less, late on the night of Aug. 3, the resolution was adopted by a majority of 14 members. The Jordanian representative abstained from voting on this resolution and made an explanation of vote (Document III).

The passage of this resolution effectively frustrated Jordanian efforts to arrange for a mini-summit, hardened the attitude of

Jordanian efforts and had shown every sign of genuinely seeking a diplomatic resolution to the crisis which had also been subjected to strong pressure — together with other Arab states.

Jordanian anxiety about the course of events was further intensified by the arrival of Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qassem, on that same day as His Majesty was meeting with his aides. Mr. Qassem bore the text of the draft resolution prepared by the Arab foreign minister at the meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference in Cairo which condemned Iraq for its invasion of Kuwait. His Majesty's immediate

emergency summit meeting of the Arab League, of the decision to send Arab forces to join the international coalition against Iraq on Aug. 10 was seen by the Government of Jordan as regrettable, it continued its efforts to seek an Arab solution, along with members of the Arab League which shared its point of view. These efforts were exercised in two directions: in the first contacts with the principal members of the international coalition were made with a view to persuading them of the importance of dialogue rather than confrontation with Iraq; in the second direction contacts were made with Arab governments which shared the Jordanian point of view and with the government of Iraq were multiplied to try to find a compromise which might enable that government to remove the reason for the massive presence of foreign forces in the area by withdrawing from Kuwait.

After the Arab Summit on Aug. 10, His Majesty went to Baghdad on Aug. 13, and then almost immediately to the United States, where he met President Bush on Aug. 16. During that visit His Majesty gained the impression that the American military presence in Saudi Arabia, and the region, bad as its role the defence of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and was, together with other forces, assuming a purely defensive posture. The American stance on the absolute need for Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait was clear, a position with which Jordan had concurred. His Majesty as a result felt that since there was no evidence whatsoever that Iraq had harboured any hostile intentions towards Saudi Arabia, there was an opportunity which should be utilised to make efforts for a peaceful resolution of the entire problem, and that this objective became tantamount to a sacred duty in the interests of peace and all concerned.

The dispatch of the international coalition's massive land, sea and air forces to Saudi Arabia was widely perceived in the region as a major step towards the implementation of a plan to destroy Iraq's military and industrial capacity. These suspicions had already been aroused by what, contextually, appeared to have been a systematic campaign by the Western media, extending over a period of at least two years prior to the crisis, to create the belief that the Iraqi government was planning to become the dominant power in the Middle East, and to attack Israel in particular.

As a reaction against what it saw as the sinister unfolding of an international conspiracy, the Iraqi government retaliated by retaining the citizens of various countries on its territory, thereby adding to the dimension of the crisis, committing another breach of international law, and creating a climate of fear and uncertainty among the large foreign population in Iraq and the Gulf. Hundreds of thousands of refugees sought sanctuary in Jordan, thus adding to the country's already grave problems. The imposition of sanctions against Iraq by Security Council Resolution 661 on Aug. 6, followed by the further imposition of a total maritime, land and air blockade under the terms of Resolution 665 on Aug. 25, had a disastrous impact on the economic and financial situation of Jordan. The port of Aqaba, Jordan's only outlet to the sea, was effectively and arbitrarily blockaded by the coalition's naval forces, although ports in other countries with access to Iraq were not similarly treated. Trade with Iraq, Jordan's main market and source of petroleum products (which, incidentally during these times, bad been in repayment of debt to Jordan) was reduced to a standstill. Jordan thus received a severe economic punishment for actions to which it was not a party, and this situation, along with the presence of hundreds of thousands of new refugees flooding across its borders, created an atmosphere of tension that might well have exploded had the government not adopted a position of neutrality and resistance to outside pressure from the beginning of the crisis.

Between Aug. 23 and 29, King Hussein visited Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco. Between Aug. 30 and Sept. 5, His Majesty also visited Spain, Great Britain, Germany, France and Italy. In each of the European countries, His Majesty met with government leaders and explained the point of view of the Jordanian government on the origins and causes of the crisis, on the current situation, and on the means to find a peaceful and just solution. In all these countries, except Great Britain, His Majesty was encouraged to continue his mission of mediation.

Further encouraged by indications from President Saddam to the effect that Iraq was still prepared to seek an honourable compromise and to accept a negotiated, but not imposed, settlement, and by European support for additional attempts at Arab mediation, His Majesty undertook a new initiative in collaboration with the president of Algeria and the king of Morocco. Following a meeting hosted by King Hassan, in Morocco on Sept. 19, and attended by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and King Hussein, His Majesty addressed a letter to President Saddam on Sept. 22 (Document VII).

Among all the Jordanian efforts to achieve an Arab resolution to the Gulf crisis, His Majesty's letter to President Saddam was the most significant. It articulated the fears felt by the author in common with the whole Arab community, that beneath the immediate problem between Iraq and Kuwait lay designs on the resources and lands of the Arab states, and that the crisis was a trap set for Iraq into which it was in danger of falling. The dangers of a military confrontation, not only to Iraq but to the entire Arab Nation, were cited. It was made clear to President Saddam that Jordan and other Arab governments could not accept the acquisition of territory by war, not only as a matter of principle, but also because failure to maintain this principle could constitute a dangerous precedent of which Israel would take advantage. Iraq's invasion and annexation of Kuwait could not be tolerated but its reversal would not be a defeat for Iraq, but on the contrary, a source of gain for Iraq and the Arab World as a whole: The real achievements of the Iraqi nation over two decades would be preserved, attention would be drawn to the need to address the problem of the growing gap between the rich and the poor Arab states (something which could remain a legitimate and conscious national objective). Furthermore it might hope to attain legitimately the international coalition.

Although the adoption, by the

King's letter to Saddam: Jordan waited for positive Iraqi response to appeal for withdrawal

Letter from His Majesty King Hussein to H.E. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq

Your Excellency, our brother, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, may God Protect you.

I have just returned from the Rabat meeting to which His Majesty King Hassan II invited me, as he also invited His Excellency President Chadli Benjedid. The subject of the meeting was the Gulf crisis which has become the crisis of the Arab Nation since its beginning on Aug. 2 when Iraq's troops occupied Kuwait. With this event started a dangerous slide towards the unknown, increasing in intensity with every day and hour. We see that what our nation accomplished through its struggle since the beginning of this century is threatened with extinction or destruction. This is happening after the end of the cold war period and at a time when the world is witnessing the birth of a new era and when the international game is being governed by laws and rules different from those we have been familiar with so far.

With the beginnings of a period of hope and promise came the Gulf crisis which revolves around oil, which all nations need and which constitutes, more than at any previous time, the most important base of a new era in which nations aspire to live in a world where peace and cooperation prevail.

Our Arab area has become of the utmost importance for this world, not only because of its location and size and the volume of its market, but also for its vast oil reserves which are estimated to represent two thirds of the world's oil reserves or more.

The large industrial powers saw in the Gulf crisis a golden opportunity to reorganise the area according to designs in harmony with their ambitions and interests, at the expense of the aspirations and interests of the Arab peoples, and to put in place a new international order.

The dangers that these developments present do not elude you. Whatever our reservations about the way the Arab order functioned until Aug. 2, 1990 they do not justify sacrificing the achievements of our nation. In particular they do not justify sacrificing the great achievements of Iraq under your leadership which have become the source of Arab pride.

This is not only my opinion but that of His Majesty King Hassan II and President Chadli Benjedid and certainly the view of the Arab community, a common cultural identity and a common destiny, and the recent formation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), linking Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and the Yemen, over which His Majesty King Hussein presided in 1990, the second year of its existence. It was therefore natural that Jordan should play a leading role in seeking to avert a conflict between countries with whom it was closely associated, and to save the people of the region from the consequences of a war which it clearly foresaw.

In all its efforts Jordan maintained a neutral position between the parties to the conflict, and consistently sought to assume the role of mediator essential to any successful attempt to resolve opposing claims and counter-claims. The two main sources of contention between the governments of Iraq and Kuwait were a dispute about the frontiers between the two states, and another on the rights to the production of oil from the Rumailah oilfield. In addition to that, there was the old Iraqi interest in securing an outlet to the waters of the Gulf which had been denied them because of the way in which the boundaries between the two countries were drawn by the representative of the British government in 1922.

These sources of contention could and should have been easily removed through the mediation of other Arab governments, which was obliged by virtue of their membership of the Arab League to make serious efforts to find an Arab solution, in conformity with the rules of the United Nations Charter relating to the peaceful settlement of regional disputes (Chapters 6 & 8). This was indeed Jordan's aim from the time it became clear at the Arab-Summit meeting, held in Baghdad in May 1990, that a dangerous situation had arisen from the government of Iraq's

under the guise of helping Kuwait, and in the name of international legitimacy. In fact they are trying to eliminate Iraq, and destroy the hopes of our Arab Nation for what it represents, and destroy our nation's confidence in itself.

I personally realised this from the beginning, and based on this knowledge I made strenuous efforts within my capacity to reach an Arab solution in order to thwart the designs against Iraq and the Arab Nation. Obstacles were put and are still being put in my way. Matters have deteriorated at a rapid pace and the area has reached the threshold of explosion. In reality, I do not see that there is much time ahead of us to avoid disaster.

The war, if it should start, will be won in the end by one party or another, but the real losers will be us, the Arab... we who believe in the right of our nation to life whether we are in Iraq or in any other part of our wide Arab homeland.

If, however, with the help of God, the war is successfully avoided, and we are able to reach an Arab solution, then Iraq will have achieved much despite the pain and the losses which have accompanied the crisis. Iraq will have succeeded in preserving the achievements of its people and nation; it will have solved its problem with Iran; it will have successfully drawn attention to the gap between the wealthy Arabs and the poor ones, and established this issue as a national one in the consciousness of the Arab peoples, and gained support and understanding for this even in the international area; it will have attained its legitimate demands which were a source of contention with Kuwait; it will have succeeded in embarrassing the world which has neglected the Palestine issue, and forcing it to fulfil its responsibility to implement international resolutions as it did in Kuwait; and Iraq will have destroyed for our enemies the opportunity of exploiting divisions within the Arab nations.

We are now on the threshold of a new Arab era in which things will never be as they were before we reach a peaceful solution within an Arab framework. Will you help us all in protecting these achievements? I believe it is within our capacity to protect them, and to build on them if we should achieve this peaceful solution, acceptable to all concerned Arab parties; a solution in which the will of Kuwaitis is respected so that they freely decide what they want: a solution which confirms our and Iraq's consistency in confirming the principle of the inadmissibility of using Arab force against Arabs, and that every Arab state, however small in size, is equal to even the largest Arab state in its rights; a solution which shows that the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait was only an act of self-defence, not an expansionist action, or an intention to impose hegemony; a solution which rectifies what happened, contains the crisis, paves the way for its resolution, and restores confidence between the brotherly Arab regiments.

It is important that Your Excellency should know that the majority of the Arab peoples rightly fear for Iraq with its scientific, human, military and material capabilities. This fear for Iraq has reached a point where many believe that a trap has been set for Iraq, a trap in which it fell, creating the opportunity for the enemies of the nation to strike and destroy Iraq

spoken with His Majesty King Fahd who was very angry at the situation. President Mubarak was now unwilling to accept the agreement reached by His Majesty with President Saddam Hussein, and insisted on Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the immediate restoration of the Kuwaiti ruling family.

The Egyptian president's new position was in conformity with the Arab foreign ministers' Arab League meeting adoption of a resolution condemning Iraq for the invasion of Kuwait and calling for an immediate withdrawal (Document I). The Jordanian representative to the Arab League meeting,

the Iraqi government, paved the way for the Arab League to abandon any attempts to keep the crisis within the boundaries of the Arab fold, and opened the way for foreign intervention, rather than allowing the solution of the crisis within the Arab context: a prognosis which turned out to be accurate.

From this point onward, the aggravation and escalation of the conflict gathered momentum. Every Jordanian attempt to break the impetus towards war was frustrated. The final abandonment by the Arab League of its role as a security structure came at the emergency Arab Summit meeting called by President Mubarak on Aug. 8. The meeting took place on Aug. 10 and His Majesty attended it. Attempts to revive

White Paper sets the record straight on Jordan's Gulf position

Continued from page 7

objectives which were now the source of conflict in Kuwait, bring the international community to face its responsibilities towards the Palestine problem, and remove from the enemies of the Arabs the opportunity of exploiting their differences.

These gains could be made if a peaceful resolution of the crisis within an Arab framework were achieved: such a resolution would respect the Kuwaiti right to self determination; confirm Iraq's constant assertion that no Arab force should be used against fellow Arabs; show that Iraq's occupation was an act of self-defence against and inflexible position and not just expansionism or a wish for hegemony; it would rectify the wrong, contain the crisis, and pave the way for its resolution.

The letter asked for President Saddam's answer to a number of questions which would enable the three heads of state to attempt mediation between the parties to the conflict: what were the specific and feasible demands of Iraq from Kuwait in relation to the joint borders, Iraq's need for access to the Gulf, and compensation for oil taken from the Rumailah field, besides other claims?

The letter ended with a plea to President Saddam to respond positively to the efforts of the three heads of state to mediate between Iraq and Kuwait and to restore relations with other states in the Gulf, already sufficiently alarmed by what had taken place to fall, alongside Iraq, into the coils of a vast and overwhelming foreign military presence.

President Saddam's reply to His Majesty's letter was carried to Amman by the Iraqi Foreign Minister on Sept. 29. Although it agreed with the Jordanian analysis of the background to the crisis, it expressed surprise at some of the views advanced. It did not agree with the presentation of the choices before Iraq; the questions His Majesty put to President Saddam should have been directed at the other party — what did they want from Iraq? If the alternative to not replying to the Jordanian questions was war, then Iraq took up the challenge, but it would not be the disaster of which His Majesty warned: it would be a disaster for the United States and its allies. President Saddam was prepared to accept one of two possible solutions to the crisis: an Arab solution in which the two parties would sit down together and thus settle their differences as His Majesty had proposed during his Aug. 3 visit to Baghdad. President Saddam had then agreed to attend a mini-summit which in his view had been aborted by some of those who were to have attended; but he was still willing to meet to find an Arab solution, the alternative solution was an international one, as he had proposed on Aug. 12: an international conference should be convened at which not only the question of Kuwait but also the problems of Palestine and Lebanon should be discussed, and all solved on the same basis of respect for international legitimacy. That proposal had been immediately rejected by both the United States and Great Britain.

President Saddam agreed with the argument presented by His Majesty, that the rejection of the acquisition of territory by war should be respected as a matter of principle, but that it should then apply to all cases and not be confined to the case of Kuwait. In invading Kuwait President Saddam's intention had been to put the international community face to face with its obligations with respect to the Palestine question; he had succeeded in this and revealed the true intentions of the U.S. and its ally, Israel. In his view, these two bad designs on the Arab countries which they were promoting before the invasion of Kuwait, and would have gone on promoting even if there had been no invasion. The Iraqi president insisted that Kuwait was the symptom and not the cause of the crisis. The linkage between the invasion of Kuwait and the Palestine problem had not been produced by Iraq to rally support among the Palestinians and others for the Iraqi stand, or to confuse the issue: it was the issue and this had been the central theme of President Saddam's public and private statements at Arab meetings for a long time.

The Jordanian-Algerian-Moroccan effort at mediation had not succeeded, but the Jordanian government perceived the danger of escalating the crisis and now concentrated on its attempts to avert the resort to military force by the international coalition.

In September His Majesty addressed a message, clearly defining the Jordanian position, to the American people (Document VIII). Jordan stood by the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and continued to recognise the state and government of Kuwait. It recognised the sovereign right of Saudi Arabia to seek assistance from friendly states and the right of the American administration to respond to that request — but it called for an end to the presence of American and allied forces on Saudi soil within the shortest possible time. The crisis was not born in a vacuum, but had its origins in a complexity of causes with three inter-related dimensions: the border dispute between Iraq and Kuwait was an old one, but the present Iraqi regime was the first to have sought a negotiated settlement which would have secured an independent access to the Gulf and a final delineation of frontiers.

The second dimension was regional. The lack of progress in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, the failure to implement Security Council Resolution 242 based, like Resolution 660, on the inadmissibility of the acquisition of land by force, embittered Arab public opinion and caused it to question the motives behind the American zeal to implement Security Council Resolution 660 and subsequent resolutions. The United States had always advised the Arabs to accept a negotiated settlement and to accept compromise, and the Arabs had responded positively; now they perceived the United States as unwilling even to consider a negotiated settlement between Iraq and Kuwait and equally unwilling to accept any solution short of an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal.

The third dimension of the crisis was the nature of relations between the Middle East and the rest of the world. In the new world order emergent after the end of the Cold War, the region should not be marginalised. A substantial Arab input into a diplomatic solution to the crisis was necessary because otherwise it

would be regarded as a solution imposed from outside the area, and its legitimacy questioned.

Although His Majesty was clearly an apologist for peace and not for Iraq, his advice was not well received. An orchestrated campaign to misrepresent Jordan as the ally and supporter of Iraq, and to urge the American administration to substitute military action for the sanctions imposed on Iraq by the Security Council, succeeded in souring relations between the United States and Jordan and in helping to effect a radical change in the direction of American policy towards Jordan. American forces, which had originally been sent to Saudi Arabia with the explicit mission of defending that territory from attack by Iraq, were now reinforced by a massive offensive capability to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. The dispatch of these land, sea and air forces by President Bush in early November 1990 was followed by an intensive campaign to pressure the members of the international coalition and of the Security Council to accept a new resolution (678) authorising the use of all necessary means to uphold and implement all previous relevant resolutions on or before Jan. 15, 1991.

This radical shift in the position of the international coalition led by the United States was perceived by the Jordanian Government as an inevitable prelude to a military confrontation, the consequences of which would be disastrous for Iraq, Kuwait and the whole region. Jordan's efforts, following its failure to organise an Arab solution were now further extended to seek the help of the European members of the coalition and the Soviets to avert this confrontation.

These efforts were exerted in two directions. In the first, the Jordanian leadership continued to use all its influence with Iraq to plead for and secure the release of foreign nationals held in Iraq since the middle of August 1990, some of whom had also been arrested in Kuwait. Following on the visit by King Hussein on Dec. 4, the Iraqi government announced the release of all foreign nationals.

The second direction taken by Jordan was to encourage certain European governments within the coalition and the Soviet government to undertake initiatives to persuade the Iraqi government to take the necessary measures to avoid the resort to force sanctioned — according to interpretation — by Security Council Resolution 678. This Jordanian initiative was favourably received by the French and Soviet governments.

At a meeting with President Mitterrand and His Majesty in Paris on Nov. 5, the former had already indicated his preference for a diplomatic resolution of the crisis, and he expressed his hope that President Saddam would make it possible for France and the Soviet government to sponsor a peace initiative. This initiative could only be undertaken if the Iraqi president announced his intention to withdraw from Kuwait; France had no hostile intentions towards Iraq but would not withdraw from decisions it had taken with its allies.

As the Jan. 15 deadline approached, the Jordanian authorities increased their efforts to persuade the European members of the international coalition to avert a military confrontation

with Iraq and to warn of the political, human and ecological consequences of war. In an address to the Second World Climate Conference held in Geneva, His Majesty outlined the potential impact of the environmental threat from the oilfields of the Gulf on the climate of the Middle East and beyond with dangerous and wide-ranging repercussions on human and animal health and food production: warnings which later events were to prove accurate (Document IX). In a subsequent address to graduates of the Military Staff College in Amman on Dec. 9, His Majesty warned:

"...our Arab region is on the verge of a very destructive war. This war, God forbid that it should happen, will result in a very serious tragedy which will affect not only the present, but also the future... it will cause a severe international economic crisis, an environmental catastrophe, deep wounds that will take a long time to heal and long-lasting global instability."

In the course of the same address His Majesty formulated Jordan's proposal for the settlement of regional problems on a permanent and stable basis (Document X).

Between the end of December and Jan. 15, the Jordanian government multiplied its contacts with the leaders and representatives of all the major powers and many other members of the international coalition. The efforts of members of the European Community to meet with the Iraqi foreign minister were encouraged, although in the event that meeting did not take place. The announcement by President Bush, immediately after the adoption of Resolution 678 on Nov. 29, that he was sending his secretary of state to Baghdad had been welcomed by the Jordanian government and great hopes were placed on the meeting which finally took place between Mr. Baker and the Iraqi foreign minister, Mr. Tareq Aziz, in Geneva on Jan. 9.

However, after five months during which no dialogue between the U.S. and Iraq took

place and given the strait-jacket imposed on negotiations by the terms of the Security Council resolutions, it was perhaps only to be expected that the meeting would be a failure, as both sides entered into negotiations with different objectives.

Between Jan. 2-10, His Majesty had visited London, Bonn, Luxembourg and Rome, meeting with the British prime minister, the president, chancellor and foreign minister of Germany, the Grand Duke, prime minister and foreign minister of Italy. In all these meetings, the Jordanian monarch warned of the consequences of war, and urged a final effort to avert it by offering Iraq a way to extricate itself from the corner in which it had been hemmed in by the rigidity of the international coalition's stance, and by its own misperception of the reality of the dangers it was facing.

This message was also delivered to the United Nations secretary-general during his passage through Amman en route for Baghdad on Jan. 11 in an attempt to persuade the Iraqi authorities to accept an unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait as a way to avert the resort to force by the coalition after the passage of the Jan. 15 deadline.

This endeavour also failed, as did the French government's move of Jan. 14, to get the president of the Security Council to make a statement which could have averted the imminent war. The proposal was met with the opposition of both the American and British governments, by now determined to make full use of Resolution 678 which, as they claimed, authorised them to resort to force independently of any United Nations command structure.

Realising that all Jordan's efforts to avert the outbreak of war had failed, His Majesty addressed the Jordanian people on Jan. 15. This address (Document XI) warned that the region was on the brink of an abyss: "the doors of reason have been shut and the avenues for an honest dialogue blocked." His Majesty had done everything within his

power to achieve a political settlement of the crisis and his conscience was clear. He warned of the dangers facing Jordan, but was certain that the Jordanian Armed Forces — The Arab Army — would protect the land and the skies of the country and "prevent anyone whomsoever from crossing it in any direction."

The failure of all attempts to persuade the Iraqi government to take steps to avert the implementation of Resolution 678 on the one hand, and of all attempts to induce the coalition leaders into a more flexible stand on the other, inevitably led to the opening of hostilities against Iraq by devastatingly massive air raids on civilian as well as military targets over the entire country. As the scale of destruction mounted, the impact on the people of Jordan became increasingly violent. Scenes of ruin in the cities, towns and villages of Iraq and of the frightful suffering inflicted on the Iraqi people by merciless aerial bombardments, increased the Jordanians' sympathy for the Iraqis and their anger at the countries and governments that had gone far beyond the mandate to liberate Kuwait and were destroying Iraq. The bombing of vehicles carrying vital oil supplies to Jordan from Iraq and the loss of Jordanian lives under bombardment from the coalition's planes added to this tide of anger and frustration. These feelings were brought home to the world in His Majesty's address to the nation on Feb. 6 (Document XII) in which he reiterated his belief that Jordanian and other Arab efforts to end the crisis peacefully had been deliberately blocked because "the real purpose behind this destructive war, as proven by its scope... is to destroy Iraq, and re-arrange the area in a manner far more dangerous to our nation's present and future than the Sykes-Picot agreement."

Having failed to avert the outbreak of war, Jordan's efforts were now directed at bringing it to a rapid end and above all to prevent the ground offensive. Once again, an intense series of contacts between the Jordanian authorities and world leaders

were conducted with a view to persuade the Iraqi regime to withdraw from Kuwait, and thus comply with Security Council resolutions and avert a final land battle. His Majesty welcomed the Iraqi proposals made on Feb. 15 to withdraw from Kuwait as part of a general settlement of the crisis, but these proposals were immediately dismissed by the American president and British prime minister as a "cruel hoax." Proposals for an end to hostilities and a peace settlement made by the Soviet government met with the same fate, and were dismissed by the American president as being inadequate in meeting the United States' requirements. On Feb. 22 His Majesty made a desperate attempt to stop the final ground offensive and sent a letter to French President Mitterrand in which he urged him to "lead France's moral weight and important support to the Soviet initiative" (Document XIII). But by now it was too late to stop the machinery of the coalition's design to evict Iraq from Kuwait. The invasion not only of Kuwait but also of Southern Iraq ended the war at terrible cost to Iraq's forces and to the civilian populations of both Iraq and Kuwait as well as to the region's environment. But the end of the war did not bring the beginning of peace.

A final message of hope and reconciliation was addressed to the Jordanian people by His Majesty on March 1, 1991. This address summed up the growth of the crisis from its beginning to the end of the war — and the position of the Jordanian government. "Our vision was clear from the outset of the disaster. We realised what the outcome would be: if Iraq continued its occupation of Kuwait and if we failed to resolve the problem peacefully within the Arab framework. We tried our utmost to address and contain the problem in its early days and at all subsequent stages before the outbreak of war... Most regrettably we were not successful." After Iraq and Kuwait, Jordan had suffered most from the crisis but "did not bear a grudge toward any, nor did we place the

blame on any. We knew we would pay dearly for standing on principle and for insisting on maintaining our freedom of action within the national context and as due to our geographical location."

Looking towards the future, His Majesty expressed his belief that "the Arab people have a greater sense of solidarity and harmony than the recent crisis suggests. They are capable of overcoming the causes of division and fragmentation which we have always cautioned against: Popular participation in the framework of democratic institutions is the guarantor of upholding that solidarity among people, just as responsible freedom and respect for human rights and human dignity are the guarantors that prevent decision makers from following the path of adventurism. For it is through the widespread adoption of democracy in the Arab countries that we can best save our nation from the pitfalls of unwaranted conflict" (Document XIV).

While the Gulf crisis was on, Jordan was subjected to severe strains on its economic and financial stability, but its political and social stability was not disrupted at any point. The identification between the concerns of the government and the policies of the government enabled the country to emerge safely from the dangers which it had faced. A further step in the process of establishing national consensus was taken by the promulgation in June 1991 of the National Charter drawn up by a Royal Commission on which all sections of the population were represented. In an address to the National Congress which endorsed the charter on June 9, 1991, His Majesty drew the lessons of the Gulf crisis, of which the principal was that "democracy is the pillar of national security." The three basic components of democracy he defined as the separation of the executive, legislative and judicial powers, free elections, and political pluralism. And the framework of Jordan's national life was Freedom, "the basis of dialogue, of truth, and of democracy" (Document XV).

BBC plans to teach world English

TWO major projects designed to help people all over the world to learn English were announced on Aug. 6 by Elizabeth Smith, controller of BBC English Services. The new schemes, which will cost more than £4m, are being developed by BBC English, the language-teaching arm of BBC World Service, in association with other organisations in the English Language Teaching (ELT) field.

"We hope these new initiatives will be of particular help to areas such as Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union and China where the demand for English is huge and the supply of teachers low," said Elizabeth Smith, speaking at the BBC English Summer School which opened in London.

The courses are aimed at beginners and at the business community. The 'Hello' project, costing more than £2m, is the replacement for 'Follow Me', BBC English's highly acclaimed TV series which has now been screened in more than 70 countries including China and the Soviet Union. The new business English video course, representing an investment of £1.25m, will be available for broadcast on television and radio, or as a book

meet rapid growth in demand from the business community in many parts of the world.

The announcement comes at a time when BBC English reveals a record turnover of £22m worldwide income for the year 1990/91 representing a 19 per cent growth on the previous year's trading.

"The record figures show the results of improved sales and marketing of our television, video and print materials," said Julian Amyes, executive director BBC English. "The department has worked very hard to achieve this result and even in the difficult trading conditions of 1990/91 we have been able to achieve a very creditable increase in turnover. We are now actively engaged in major new productions designed to maintain the growth of the department's business," he added.

Preliminary work begins this month on the 'Hello' project. Made in association with the British Council, the Cambridge Animation Syndicate (UCELS), and publishers Longmans, it will be available for broadcast on television and radio, or as a book

Known as the world's largest classroom, BBC English broadcasts around 80 hours of English by radio lessons each week. Its TV programmes are shown in more than 100 countries, and a wide range of multi-media courses is available to students and teachers around the world. An annual Summer School is held in Britain. This year's, the 39th, has just opened and has students coming from as far afield as Namibia and Mongolia, Iceland and Albania.

Thumbs down to environmental missionaries

THE world does not need European "environmental missionaries" to go forth preaching their own particular doctrine of environmental management, a meeting in London on biodiversity agreed, reports VERA RICH.

Participants noted that there was no single "right way" of agricultural or forest management, and the cultural diversity of the world's peoples was itself a part of the biodiversity that needed to be preserved.

Stressing that local knowledge was vital to the preservation of the world's vanishing species, they discussed a draft strategy on biodiversity for presentation at next year's United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Education at all levels, it was agreed, was essential, because governments would not commit money for genefunds and bio-reserves, nor would farmers renounce immediate profits for the benefit of future generations, if they did not understand what was at stake.

The very concept of "training" should be rethought, it was argued, because preservation of the diversity of species was not simply a matter of biology but of "ethnobiology", which links the study of the natural world with human activities.

Training programmes, it was suggested, could begin by bringing in teams from developing countries to train European students in the basics of ethnobiology, rather than letting graduates emerging from international training schemes "wellversed in conservation theories but lacking a wider, human dimension."

Local knowledge was not stressed at the expense of acknowledgement of the importance of a sound scientific training. PANSOS

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Financial Markets		Jordanian Times			
In co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close			
13/8/91	14/8/91				
Sterling Pound	1.6925	1.6879			
Deutsche Mark	1.7325	1.7343			
Swiss Franc	1.5124	1.5176			
French Franc	5.8932	5.9075	++		
Japanese Yen	136.45	136.40			
European Currency Unit	1.1835	1.1805	**		
USD Per SGD					
European Central Bank 8:00 a.m. GMT					
International Exchange Rates Date: 14/8/91					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.81		
Sterling Pound	10.81	10.81	10.62		
Deutsche Mark	9.12	9.31	9.43		
Swiss Franc	7.87	7.87	7.87		
French Franc	9.83	9.56	9.62		
Japanese Yen	7.58	7.36	7.06		
European Currency Unit	9.81	9.87	9.93		
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent Date: 14/8/91					
Product Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*
Gold	357.0	6.90	Silver	6.90	.095
* 21 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 14/8/91					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	.688	.690			
Sterling Pound	1.1635	1.1693			
Deutsche Mark	.3968	.3988			
Swiss Franc	.4541	.4564			
French Franc	.1166	.1172			
Japanese Yen	.5041	.5066			
Dutch Guilder	.3518	.3536			
Swedish Krona	.1092	.1097			
Italian Lira	.0529	.0532			
Belgian Franc	.01926	.01936			
Per 100					
Other Currencies Date: 14/8/91					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Rahman Dinar	1.7850	1.8000			
Lebanese Lira	.0750	.0770			
Saudi Riyal	.1830	.1836			
Kuwaiti Dinar					
Qatari Riyal	.1862	.1870			
Egyptian Pound	.2000	.2200			
Qatari Riyal	1.7450	1.7600			
U.S.E. Dirham	.1862	.1870			
Greek Drachma	.3550	.3650			
Cypriot Pound	1.4250	1.4550			
Per 100					
Gulf Indices for Amman Financial Markets					
Index	12/8/91	Close	13/8/91		
All Share	108.74	108.94			
Banking Sector	102.64	102.80			
Insurance Sector	118.62	118.71			
Industry Sector	114.95	115.28			
Services Sector	126.97	126.97			

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The Nikkei average ended up 521.30 points, or 2.28 per cent., at 23,393.30. Bargain-hunting and futures-related buying boosted prices, but volume stayed light.

ZURICH — Shares ended a moderately active session slightly firmer, with activity centred on the industrial sector. The SPI Index closed 4.4 higher at 1,126.3.

PARIS — Shares ended higher on the eve of a crucial Bundesbank council meeting despite fresh clues that the German Central Bank may plan to raise interest rates. The CAC-40 Index ended at 1,320.31, up 11.47.

LONDON — The FTSE Index ended up 23.9 at a new record close of 2,608.8, boosted by investor confidence that the British economy would soon emerge from recession.

NEW YORK — Blue chips traded at the session's peaks at midday. Solid gains in the Bond Market provided support. The Dow was up 13 at 3,021.

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Democrat elder U.S. casualty in BCCI scandal

WASHINGTON (IR) — A former U.S. secretary of defence long considered the ultimate Washington political "powerbroker" is the most prominent American casualty in the growing Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) scandal.

Clark Clifford, 81, adviser to U.S. presidents and longtime Democratic Party elder, resigned Tuesday as chairman of First American Bankshares Inc., Washington's largest bank, which was owned by BCCI.

First American said in a statement that Mr. Clifford and his law partner, First American President Robert Altman, were resigning to protect the \$11 million bank. Both deny any wrongdoing.

Mr. Clifford, courtly and mellow-voiced, served as secretary of defence under President Lyndon Johnson in 1968-69.

A lawyer since 1928, Mr. Clifford became special counsel in the White House to President Harry Truman. He turned down requests from other presidents to hold office but served in an unofficial capacity under both presidents John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter.

Mr. Clifford and Mr. Altman have said they did not know that their bank was owned by BCCI, accused of laundering drug money, running guns and acting as personal banker to Third World Dictators.

"Mr. Clifford and Mr. Altman advised the board that they were taking this initiative in order to protest First American, which they have worked to build over nine years," the bank said.

The Federal Reserve board, the U.S. central bank, had charged that BCCI broke U.S. law by its secret acquisition of First American. The Fed has imposed a \$200 million fine on BCCI for its secret acquisition of the Washington bank.

No charges have been brought against Mr. Clifford and Mr. Altman.

Jack Blum, a former Senate investigator credited with breaking open the Luxembourg-based bank's secrets, called for a special investigation into the U.S. government's handling of the scandal.

Mr. Blum said on U.S. television that he gave federal authorities information on BCCI as early as 1988, but got little positive response, with officials saying they were already investigating and aspect of it or lacked personnel.

He later took the information to Manhattan District Attorney Robert Morgenthau, who acted on it and later called the BCCI case "the largest bank fraud in world history."

Asked if he had any evidence of a coverup, Mr. Blum said: "I don't have hard evidence of it, but I have some suspicions."

He added: "I believe it is imperative that the performance of the Department of Justice, the performance of the Customs Service, be evaluated and be looked at by an independent investigator."

Mr. Bush said an independent investigator was needed to try to find out what happened that held back the federal government's role in probing the scandal.

Regulators shut down the bank last month and a Manhattan grand jury alleged the bank had been involved in global money laundering, drug-running and arms sales.

'Jordanian exporters better off focusing more attention on non-traditional markets'

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Export-oriented Jordanian industries should intensify their efforts on markets outside the Arab World if they want to ensure long-term stability since post-Gulf war priorities of the region's countries, particularly Iraq, are shifting, according to international experts closely familiar with the Kingdom's industrial and exports sector.

"All indications are that Iraq will be moving towards self-sufficiency in its consumer and small-scale industrial needs as and when the sanctions are lifted," said an economic expert who has been studying Jordanian industrial and export patterns for the past several years.

"It will be a big mistake for Jordanian exporters to expect that they will be able to normalise long-term business with Iraq to the level" that existed before the U.N. Security Council imposed a trade embargo on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait in August last year, said the expert, who preferred anonymity.

The expert pointed out that the Gulf war ceasefire terms, coupled with the devastation to food stuffs and medicine in addition to raw materials for its own

industries rather than importing products which are not essential for day-to-day life when Baghdad is given access to its funds frozen abroad and/or the Security Council allows limited sales of Iraqi oil, said another economic analyst. He noted that some of the products that Jordanian industries used to export to Iraq before the crisis could be classified as "non-essential consumer products," and cited alcoholic beverages, including beer, as an example.

"One consolation, if any, he added, is that Jordanian agricultural exports to Iraq could go up and stabilise at certain levels for some years before the Iraqis themselves redress the damage done to its own agriculture in the war.

The effect of the Iraqi move to divert its domestic consumer and industrial production may not be immediately visible in the short term on Jordanian industries geared towards meeting the needs of the Iraqi market, but "sooner than later the exporters will find little room for export deals with Iraq," he said.

The two experts lamented what they said was the lack of enough awareness among

Jordanian businessmen of the eventuality of losing markets in Iraq, Jordan's biggest trading partner accounting for over \$200 million in imports from the Kingdom until the sanctions were imposed in August last year.

One expert noted that Jordanian businesses had turned to Europe and other countries and had succeeded in securing export orders. But, he said, "many of them appear to have seen such deals as stopgap measures to make up for the loss of the Iraqi market."

Only a limited number of

Jordanian exporters have moved to "consolidate" and convert such opportunities into long-term assets, he said.

"There has to be a sense of determination to pursue the contacts with a view to establishing long-term contracts and securing export orders," he added.

One additional pitfall for

Jordanian manufacturing in

industries, he said, is the rising local demand for some products from the dramatic increase in population with the return of over a quarter million expatriates and families. "Industries should not sit back and relax now that sales are booming since such demands are

temporary and cannot contribute significantly to the overall national economic approach," he warned.

According to Dr. Dajani, senior advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry, the Gulf crisis and the naval squeeze at Aqaba resulting from the enforcement of sanctions against Iraq have "opened the eyes" of many Jordanian industries and prompted them to come up with import substitutes.

Faced with the delays and additional costs caused by the strict blockade at Aqaba and diversions and transhipment of Jordan-bound cargo, Jordanian industries were forced to come up with indigenous substitutes, and "this is a very good tendency," Dr. Dajani said.

While the international expert agrees with Dr. Dajani's optimism, he also argues that many Jordanian businessmen appear "more than happy to use imported products at a higher cost for use in their industries, perhaps because of better quality; but, by and large, the inclination to focus on import substitutes and improve their quality leaves a lot to be desired."

4 indicted in Japan Itoman case

TOKYO (R) — Prosecutors have charged four main suspects in Japan's Itoman corporate scandal, which involved large-scale embezzlement and dubious art deals, the Osaka district prosecutor's office said Wednesday.

Yoshimiko Kawamura, former president of Itoman Corp., an Osaka-based trading house, was formally charged with embezzlement late Tuesday, said an official at the office in Osaka, 408 kilometres southwest of Tokyo.

Prosecutors also charged Mr. Kawamura and Itoman's former Vice-President Sadamu Takagaki with violating the commercial code by endangering their firm's finances, he said.

Suemitsu Ito, a property developer and former Itoman board member, and Osaka businessman Ho Yung Chung were each indicted on charges of criminal breach of trust, he said.

Prosecutors said Mr. Kawamura, with the assistance of Mr. Takagaki, illegally purchased almost 8.3 million Itoman shares over a one-year period beginning in December, 1989. Mr. Kawamura is also suspected of embezzling his firm's funds.

Mr. Ito and Mr. Ho are alleged to have sold 219 paintings to Itoman for 55.7 billion yen (\$410 million). Itoman said it lost 34.3 billion yen (\$252 million) in the deals because the paintings were overpriced.

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'Part of Algeria's gold reserves threatened'

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian newspaper Tuesday quoted Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali as saying the country could lose 17 per cent of its gold reserves within a month if it did not repay loans worth \$350 million.

The weekly newspaper La Semaine published what it described as the minutes of a closed-door meeting last week between Mr. Ghozali and members of the central committee of the National Liberation Front, the main political party.

Former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche reportedly told the meeting Algeria's gold reserves totalled between 5.6 and 5.7 million ounces. Gold is selling at \$356.50 an ounce.

Mr. Ghozali said he was speaking of the gold situation to give a true image of the external financial situation, which in public he has described as critical.

Algeria has a foreign debt of \$26 billion and Mr. Ghozali has said it will face "the darkest period in its history" if it cannot raise six to seven billion dollars within five months.

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WORLD RESOURCES

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Swedish artillery maker struggles to survive

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Bofors, Sweden's biggest arms manufacturer, is trying to survive in a world without the cold war.

It is helping workers like Soren Dajani,

5 die in fresh Yugoslav battles Croatian city braces for army attack

BELGRADE (R) — At least five more people have been killed in gun and mortar battles in rebel Croatia, highlighting the helplessness of Yugoslavia's leaders to enforce a ceasefire between Serbs and Croats.

Croatian police said three policemen were killed and three wounded in a machinegun and mortar fight in the eastern village of Beli Manasir Tuesday night after their patrol was attacked by Serbian guerrillas.

A fourth policeman died in shooting in the village of Topusko, on the northern rim of the staunchly Serbian Krajina region, some 60 kilometres south of Zagreb, police said Wednesday.

Belgrade Radio said one person was killed and 12 were wounded in a two-hour exchange fire between the Serbian-controlled Danube village of Borovo Selo and the Croatian settlement of Borovo Naselje.

Two of the wounded were soldiers in the Yugoslav army, which is supposed to act as a buffer between the feuding sides and which fired anti-aircraft guns at the Croatian village, the Yugoslav News Agency, Tanjug, said.

Warships on the Danube also joined the battle, Belgrade Radio said.

Croatian police said four of the republic's National Guardsmen and three civilians were seriously wounded in the same clashes, which they said erupted after a mortar attack launched by Serbian guerrillas.

Third fresh violence erupted as the Yugoslav presidency met in Belgrade to try to consolidate the Aug. 7 ceasefire.

A stable ceasefire is crucial to federal leaders' plans to arrange

political talks between the feuding republics on the future shape of the 72-year-old Yugoslav federation.

News of the violence came within minutes of an optimistic statement by the eight-member presidency, which said the truce had been widely respected.

The Tanjug said a delayed swap of 75 prisoners from the two sides took place Tuesday evening in southwestern Croatia. That brought the total of prisoners exchanged in the past week to 100.

Eleven people are reported to have been killed since the ceasefire came into force, adding to a death toll of more than 300 in fighting since Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia declared independence on June 25.

Most victims have died in Croatia where Serbian guerrillas, saying they were defending the right of a 600,000-strong minority to stay in the federation, have seized large stretches of territory.

Local Serb leaders in several mixed towns and villages east of Croatia's capital Zagreb declared their autonomy from Croatia Tuesday and said they had united with Krajina.

The move seemed likely to fuel Croatian fears that Serbia intends to redraw present borders and carve out a greater Serbian state from the wreckage of present-day Yugoslavia.

Croatia says the Serbian rebels and the army are staking out the borders of a "greater Serbia," to be formed from the wreckage of present-day Yugoslavia.

"Without Osijek, the annexation of Slavonia to Serbia would not be possible and the dream of stretching the Serbian border into

In Osijek, a strategic centre in the conflict, Croatian commander Branimir Glaves said he expected Serb guerrillas, backed by the Yugoslav army, to attack at any moment.

"The army and terrorists have formed a noose around the city," Commander Glaves said.

"Guns will be blazing from every window when the army comes in."

The combative Commander Glaves, a balding, stocky figure who wears camouflage fatigues and a gun at his hip, openly sneers at Croatia's civilian leaders for being too soft.

He is also known as the "prince of Slavonia" — a part of eastern Croatia which has seen some of the fiercest fighting between Croatian police and Serbian guerrillas since Croatia's civilian leaders declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

Commander Glaves attributed the Serbian successes to support from the federal army.

"The Serbs are a band of nothing," he told Western reporters. "If it weren't for the army we'd have finished them off in 10 days."

Osijek, a picturesque baroque city of 150,000 people has not yet been attacked. But its perimeters are regularly hit by mortar fire and Croatian forces have lost control of 17 villages south and southwest of it.

Croatia says the Serbian rebels and the army are staking out the borders of a "greater Serbia," to be formed from the wreckage of present-day Yugoslavia.

"Without Osijek, the annexation of Slavonia to Serbia would not be possible and the dream of stretching the Serbian border into

Croatia will collapse," Commander Glaves said.

In preparation for an attack, the local newspaper Glas Slavonije published pull-out supplements on how to make Molotov cocktails and disable Yugoslav army tanks.

The guides, entitled, "they shall not pass," and "how to cripple a tank," include diagrams showing how to dig trenches and what proportion of petrol and sugar should be in a Molotov cocktail.

Commander Glaves's office is in the city hall, now a virtual bunker in the middle of the city, with scores of armed guards and steel-barred doors.

Guns are propped against the walls of his office where Commander Glaves plans strategy to a background arias from Italian operas on a record player.

He showed journalists videotapes of mutilated corpses of Croatian guardsmen.

"This shows the primitivism and barbarity which typifies the unfortunate Serbian people," he said. "They have no future. Their place is not in Europe but in the depths of Asia."

Glaves has launched scathing attacks on Croatian politicians for restricting his power and was widely rumoured to have been involved in a failed coup attempt earlier this month against Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

He denies the coup allegation.

"The president shouldn't qualify every disagreement with its policies as a coup," he said.

"There was no coup attempt against Mr. Tudjman. I always say what I think, regardless of whether Mr. Tudjman likes it or not."

Kaifu's popularity rises

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu appears increasingly popular despite the scandals in which his government is mired.

The Tokyo Shimbun, a regional daily, said Wednesday that a nationwide poll it conducted last weekend showed approval of Mr. Kaifu and his cabinet had risen 3.7 points to 57.1 per cent from June.

"At the moment, Mr. Kaifu and his cabinet appeared to have managed to duck their heads somehow," the newspaper said.

A ruling Liberal Democratic Party member said: "Japanese not only think Mr. Kaifu was not responsible for the incidents but also feel sympathy for him, saying how unfortunate he is serving as premier in such hard times."

Meanwhile, Mr. Kaifu and his wife, Sachiko, changed into traditional Mongolian clothes to watch huge wrestlers grapple, men and women archers shoot at targets made of sheep bones, and a Mongolian colt race with children as jockeys.

Mr. Kaifu also shook hands with "Genghis Khan," in the form of actor Enkhtaivan who played the founder of the Mongolian Empire in a Japanese-Mongolian film to be released next year.

Genghis Khan's grandson Kublai Khan founded the Yuan Dynasty in China, conquered Korea and twice tried to invade Japan in the 13th century.

Storms sunk the bulk of both Mongolian armies. The storms were known as "Kamikaze," or divine wind, the name adopted by Japanese suicide pilots in World War II.

Down the centuries, the Mongols were portrayed in Japan, as in many other places in Asia, as the scourge of their people.

Inside Communist-ruled Mongolia, Genghis Khan's name was taboo until last year out of fear it would embarrass the Soviet Union, Ulan Bator's main ally. The Mongols conquered Russia in medieval times.

Last year Mongolians did away with their Communist government and chose their own leaders in the country's first free elections. Genghis Khan is now a popular national figure.

Mr. Kaifu, the first Japanese leader to visit Mongolia, left the remote, landlocked nation for home later Wednesday.

In talks with Mongolia's leaders, he offered Japan's long-term help in propelling up its shattered economy and encouraging political reform.

The premier announced Tokyo's first official development assistance to Mongolia, worth about \$7 million.

President Pansmaaigyn Ochirbat told Mr. Kaifu his government would draft a new constitution this year that would guarantee political freedom and a market economy.

Wednesday was a day of relaxation for Mr. Kaifu's entourage, after a three-day visit to China that ended Tuesday. Mr. Kaifu was the first head of a major industrialised democracy to visit China since Peking's bloody June 1989 crackdown on the pro-democracy movement.

The Pope described himself as "your co-citizen, a native of Wadowice, and at the same time a servant of the universal church in St. Peter's See in Rome."

He asked that all share the faith he first learned here. Pope John Paul, whose mother died when he was 9, recalled "that mystery I was taught by my mother who — joining a small child's hands in prayer — showed me how to make a sign of the cross."

At a news conference after Mr. Kaifu's departure, Mongolian Prime Minister Dashin Byambasuren said the visit had "laid the foundation for cooperation in the 21st century."

Pope makes sentimental return to hometown

WADOWICE, Poland (AP) — Pope John Paul II Wednesday made a sentimental return to the home where he was born and the church where he was baptised.

In his first visit to his hometown since 1979, Pope John Paul was greeted by a brass band in the town square, which otherwise was sealed off from the public to leave the 71-year-old Pontiff alone with his old friends.

A plaque on the yellow stucco wall of 7 Koscielny (Church) St. Marks the two-room apartment where Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born on May 18, 1920. Across the street stands the ornate 18th-century Most Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Church where he was baptised one month later.

The trip home came on the second day of Pope John Paul's second visit to his homeland this year.

In Wadowice, a market town of 18,000 people about 50 kilometres from Krakow, he consecrated the new parish Church of St. Peter the Apostle during an outdoor mass. The modern marble church was built in thanks for the Pope surviving the 1981 attempt on his life.

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HANOI wants to return to world community — premier

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's new prime minister, Vo Van Kiet, says Hanoi has given socialism a new market-oriented twist that will help the isolated country patch up old enmities and lead it back into the world community.

Vietnam was determined to help to resolve the Cambodian conflict, make friends with China and the United States, and cooperate with Britain and other countries to resolve the delicate problem of "boat people," he told Reuters.

"We have already defined our country as a member of the world community," Mr. Kiet said late Tuesday in his first interview with a foreign reporter since taking office last Friday.

"It is right to say that we have to expand more and more our relations with the world. It is not only in our interest, but puts us in a better position to contribute to the world community."

Vietnamese-style socialism gave people new economic freedom, while ensuring the state took care of those unable to survive in the tough competitive world, Mr. Kiet said.

El Chichon blocked an estimated 5 per cent of solar radiation, according to measurements from the National Geophysical Data Centre in Boulder, Colorado, the dimming was as high as 20 per cent in some areas.

"This means that for those who

Italy allows remaining Albanian refugees to stay

ROME (R) — Italy, in an apparent change of heart, Wednesday gave up attempts to expel 500 desperate Albanian refugees from the southeastern port of Bari and said they could stay in the country.

They would be sent to existing refugee camps in the north, National Police Chief Vincenzo Parisi told reporters.

The refugees were the remaining hard core of 17,000 who landed in Bari last Thursday in an attempt to escape economic hardship in Europe's poorest country. All the rest have been sent back.

Italy has pledged to cover Albania's basic food needs from September until the end of November to give the country's farm sector time to recover from the collapse of the old Communist state farming system.

The latest Italian food aid is worth some \$85 million and dwarfs the \$2.3 million the European Community has given.

Italy is pressing hard for the Albanian refugees to be recognised as a Community-wide responsibility and has poured scorn on EC efforts so far.

A separate military mission flew to Tirana Tuesday to arrange details of how Italy can help reorganise the Albanian police force and set up a joint naval patrol off the Albanian coast to block any more escape attempts.

It was the first time since World War II that Western military representatives had been inside the country which remained a Stalinist dictatorship, cut off from the outside world, before becoming caught up in the collapse of East European communism after 1989.

Massive searches as trail of suspected killers leads to Alps

PARIS (AP) — Police stepped up border controls at the Swiss frontier Wednesday after reports that the suspected assassins of former Iranian Premier Shahpoor Bakhtiar may have returned to the savoy region of the Alps.

Hundreds of police conducted fruitless searches of about 30 hotels in the Alpine region Tuesday night, looking for the Iranians. Mohammed Azadi, 31, and Ali Rad Vakili, 32, were discovered only two days later.

In the meantime, Mr. Azadi and Mr. Vakili had tried to cross into Switzerland with Turkish passports under the names of Ali Kaya and Kusa Moccer. A Swiss border guard spotted the phony visas and fined them 200 Swiss francs (\$133) for trying to enter illegally.

Under standard procedures, the pair were turned over to French border police and detained for a time. Because their French visas were valid, they were allowed to return to France.

Violence mars unfinished Haitian censure debate

PONT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (R)

— Large demonstrations and threats forced Haiti's parliament to adjourn hastily before legislators could vote on a censure debate against the government of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

A building was set on fire, a political party headquarters was wrecked and two legislators were attacked. But no serious injuries were reported.

The fledgling parliament had called in Prime Minister Rene Preval, an Aristide appointee, for questioning and possible censure due to some members' opposition to the new government.

"Don't lay a finger on Preval. You will get burned," a crowd of protesters chanted as they set fires on fire.

Shots were fired outside the

headquarters of the leading parliamentary party. One legislator was slapped as he boarded a taxi, and another's home was stoned.

Offices of two unions critical of Mr. Aristide's administration were ransacked and one was set ablaze.

If the legislative body were to pass a censure motion, it would mean the appointment of a new cabinet requiring parliament's approval.

Mr. Aristide, a popular left-leaning Roman Catholic priest who easily won presidential elections in December, raised the stakes Monday by reaffirming his support for Mr. Preval.

Mr. Aristide said the cabinet, overthrow "could do much harm to major (international) negotiations."

"Vietnam has no other solution besides the solution that is being sought, examined and put forth by the Cambodian parties," he said.

"We don't have the intention to put forth any solution other than that put forth by the Cambodian parties."

Diplomats have said they fear Peking and Hanoi, which have recently improved strained ties, might reach a private solution to the conflict in which they have backed opposing sides.

Vietnam hoped eventually to provide commodities to China's busy market and to buy goods in exchange, Mr. Kiet said.

Vietnam was ready to help foreign countries and organisations speed the voluntary repatriation of some of the more than 113,000 boat people in camps around South East Asia, he said.

He replied cautiously when asked if Hanoi would help to set up internationally managed centres in Vietnam for boat people that Hong Kong wants to send home.

"If it is to build a separate area on our territory, where they will live segregated, or live on foreign

Column 8 Blue roses now possible

SYDNEY (R) — Roses come in many colours, but they have never been blue. This now looks set to change. Australian researchers claimed a world first Wednesday in cracking the genetic code that creates blue pigment in flowers.

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